## Maria Anna Di Gioia «Com'è l'acqua?» Riconoscere ogni giorno il mare invisibile del patriarcato )]] settenove

Cover picture by Massimiliano Di Lauro

**High Schools** 

**Best practices** 

**Against Gender Violence** 

## Maria Anna Di Gioia

## «Com'è l'acqua?» Riconoscere ogni giorno il mare invisibile del patrarcato

«There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says "Morning, boys. How's the water?" And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes "What the hell is water?"».

(This Is Water - D. F. Wallace)

The famous quote from *This Is Water* of David Foster Wallace is the starting point from which analyze the structural gender discrimination that we can not always recognize or be aware of. Its structural form is due to how our culture normalized it through the course of human history but also how it found (and finds) different ways to express itself: the witch hunt, advertisement, textbooks, the economic violence, misogynistic movements like Incels or Men's Rights Activism, love myths, and so on.

The book is addressed to high schools and works on the theme of sexism during the whole school year, using as starting point the International Days and the most popular celebrations: the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Epiphany, Valentine's Day, the International Women's Day, Father's Day, Mother's Day and the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

How Is the Water? points the attention on how we are absorbed in a systemic violence presenting an educational path made of theoretical texts and activities covering the school calendar to be integrated into daily teaching. An intersectional point of view to share with the class about stereotypes, conflicts and power dynamics.

## Maria Anna Di Gioia

Teacher and feminist activist, she deals with didactics, web, and gender knowledge. She is coauthor of *English around the Web* (B.A Graphis publisher, 2006), and animates the blog *Laparolaeffe. Il mio spazio di ricerca su femminismi e saperi di genere* (*Laparolaeffe. My research space on feminism and knowledge of gender*).

Title: «How Is the Water?»

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Sea of Patriarchy

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