

**Jonathan Needham** was awarded his Doctorate in Modern Languages from Middlebury College in 2004. He has been teaching Italian, French, Spanish, and Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations at Penn State University for nineteen years. His research interests include 19<sup>th</sup> century literature, comparative studies with poetry and art, and the art of storytelling. Dr. Needham has already published a book on an original translation of Ugo Foscolo's poetic masterpiece *The Graces*, an article on translations done in North America on Ugo Foscolo's *The Graces*, which will be published in summer 2015 in the online journal *Rivista di studi italiani*, and book reviews on Italian language textbooks in *Italica*. He plans to continue his research on Ugo Foscolo's *The Graces*, writing more innovative articles to be published in academic journals. Dr. Needham has at the moment an article being considered for publication "And A Hero Will Save Us; What Do Heroes From Ancient And Medieval Epics Teach Us in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?" He presented a paper at Atiner's 2013 Visual and Performing Arts conference in Athens, Greece on a celebration of the arts through Ugo Foscolo's *The Graces*. He is currently working on a paper entitled "The Use of Storytelling as a Method for Teaching Grammar Today in Foreign Language Classrooms" at Nemla's 2015 conference in Toronto, Canada. He is also the author and illustrator of the children's book *Meet My Fantastic Friend Floyd* which encourages cultural awareness outside the United States.