

Books and Literature

Slovná zásoba:

- **main literary genres (hlavné literárne žánre):**

I. Poetry (poézia): a) *epic poetry (epická poézia) - long narrative poetry with a plot (dlhá epická poézia so zápletkou)*

b) *lyric poetry (lyrická poézia) - short poems that reflect personal feelings (krátka poézia, ktorá odráža osobné pocity autora)*

c) *verse drama (veršovaná dráma) - drama written in verse (dráma písaná verš. formou)*

II. Prose (próza): a) *fiction (beletria)*

b) *non-fiction (vecná lit.)*

III. Drama (dráma): a.) *tragedy (tragédie) - a play with a sad ending (dram. hra so smutným koncom)*

b.) *comedy (komédia): comedy of manners (komédia mravov, spoločenská komédia), romantic comedy (romantická komédia), parody (paródia), satire (satira), tragicomedy (tragikomédia)*

- **other literature genres (ďalšie literárne žánre):** ballad (balada), chivalric romance (rytierska romantika), fable (bájka), fairytale (rozprávka), fantasy (fantázia), grotesque (karikatúra), heroic epic (hrdinský epos), legend (legenda), novel (román), ode (óda), travel book (cestovná kniha/cestopis)

- **reasons for reading (dôvody prečo čítať):** to enrich our lives (na obohatenie nášho života), to learn about cultural heritage (učiť sa o kultúrnom dedičstve), to develop our imagination (rozvíjať si predstavivosť), to improve our vocabulary (zlepšenie našej slovnej zásoby), to escape from the real world (utiecť od reality), to please our senses (potešiť naše zmysly)

- **authors (autori):** poet (básnik), novelist (románopisec), writer (spisovateľ), dramatist (dramatik), playwright (dramatik), satirist (satirik), autobiographer (autobiograf), critic (kritik), pseudonym (pseudonym)

- **book analysis (rozbor knihy):** author (autor), protagonist (hlavná postava), character (postava), plot (zápletká), conflict (vyvrcholenie), setting (prostredie), message of the book (hlavná myšlienka/posolstvo knihy)
 - *features (žánre):* allegorical (alegorický), ironic (ironický), satirical (satirický), humorous (humorný/vtipný), religious (náboženský), mythological (mytologický), narrative (rozprávaci/epický), fictional (fiktívny), historical (historický), legendary (legendárny/povestný)
- **bookshops (kníhkupectvá):** originals (originály), translations (preklady), simplified versions (zjednodušené verzie), bestsellers (najviac a najlepšie predávané knihy)
- **in the library (v knižnici):** to lend/to borrow (požičať/vypožičať si), lending period (výpožičná doba), to extend (predĺžiť), overdue (po dátume splatnosti), unique books (jedinečné knihy), current and older issues (súčasná a staršie problémy), study room (študovňa), silence is requested (ticho je požadované), lending card (výpožičná karta/čitateľský preukaz), reminder card (pripomienková karta)
- **crisis in reading (problémy s čítaním):** high prices of books (vysoké ceny kníh), lack of time (nedostatok času), poor choice in libraries (slabý výber v knižniciach), preference of e-books (uprednostňovanie e-kníh), film versions vs. books (sfilmované verzie alebo knihy), illegal photocopying (nelegálne kopírovanie), downloading (sťahovanie)
- **Nobel Prize winners (výhercovia Nobelovej ceny):** award (cena), ceremony (ceremónia), honour (česť)

Témy a ich vypracovanie:

1. Reading and its importance in our lives

Reading is a need in our day to day lives. We read everyday even if it is just a small text in your phone or a few words written on some notice board. It is also important to enrich our vocabulary and for a further development of our imagination. Because of improved vocabulary we can now express ourselves better and it gets easier to communicate with all kinds of people. Our social circle enlarges and we may find many interesting people. Books also make us think

more and widen our skills because they can be very educational. Many people (as myself) read just for fun and it may become a hobby.

There are many benefits of reading:

- **books amuse us, it's a way of relaxation**
- **books let us think**
- **are a great source of information, give answers to some questions**
- **reading can be a way to escape from reality**
- **they enrich our vocabulary**
- **books develop our imagination**
- **they improve our speaking skills**

2. How can literature be divided

We divide it into 2 categories:

- Non-fiction - literature that states facts, we have many genres that can be put into this category, for example dictionaries, encyclopedia, (auto)biographies, travel books, history books, cookbooks, textbooks, etc.
- Fiction - literature that stands on the author's imagination, the story can be made up or it can also use some historical facts.
 - we have main genres in this category: Poetry (poems), Prose (tales, novels, fables, epics, etc.) and Drama (plays - tragedy & comedy)

People read mostly novels – sci-fi, spy novels, detective novels, romantic novels, adventurous novels, crime novels, ...

3. Discuss reading books and factors which influence their choice

When we are choosing what to read for the first time we usually look at the description and the cover of the book which helps us to decide if we should buy it/borrow it or not. Lots of first timers are hesitant and that many genres to choose from is confusing (know it, been there), but after thorough research - if it is on the internet or just knowing yourself and your interests more it becomes much easier.

Finding what we like helps us a lot in search for new adventures and we may also bump into fanclubs of the same genres. They can navigate us in pursuing our new destinations and even pull us out of trouble when we are desperately searching for a book we read years ago and can't find it anymore.

People's choice is also influenced by their friends' or family's recommendation. Many people have reading as their hobby, but for the others it's only a duty. For example students have to read at school books that belong to compulsory reading.

4. Literature for children, teenagers and adults

Our contact with books starts in the childhood when parents read us fairytales. They are full of fantasy stories with lots of colourful pictures and they teach them how to differentiate between good and bad. They also read fables and children's rhymes.

Older children are looking for what they may like and what on the other hand will not make them happy. Books are a good starting point because if they don't like them because of the story they can be interesting in other ways too. We have lots of books which are focussed on other hobbies and we can learn much from them. They may write about the right techniques, what equipment you may need, how to not hurt yourself in the process or how to not mess up too much (if you do, it is totally fine, it happens all the time when you are just starting something new) and what to do if you mess up - how to correct the mistake.

But if kids do like the story then there are lots of tales to choose from. They can choose by themselves or with their parents. It is on them which they like more. Many of us know fairy tales from Hans Christian Andersen or some Slovak authors like Ľudmila Podjavorinská, Gabriela Futová, Jozef Číger Hronský.

There are a lot of books for teenagers. Since they are still trying to find themselves, the stories become more monotone with many things happening throughout the storyline. Parts of it are somehow too similar to their own lives and the plot is mostly about how to become a better person, even though not in every story it can always be like that. Although there are many exceptions, we can see that teenagers are searching for love, so the topic of the books is shockingly romance. Boys on the other hand prefer adventurous, detective and sci-fi stories. Some books that are popular now are: *The Summer I Turned Pretty*, *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, *The Fault in Our Stars*, *Looking for Alaska*, *The Book Thief*, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, *Dear Medusa*, *Heartstopper*

This generation of adults loves reading books and they even have more time to read them. If they don't, they will find the time to read because it is their hobby and it calms their minds. After a long day at their jobs it is a good way of just relaxing and shutting down with a

tea/coffee on the table. Literature for adults: Pride and Prejudice, To Kill a Mockingbird, Vicious, Me Before You, Little Women

Except books people like reading newspapers and magazines. There are children's magazines as Včielka Maja, Macko Pufík and others. Teenagers prefer reading online articles on their favourite websides about celebrities, fashion, lifestyle, sport, politics,...Adults and older generation visit online newspapers and magazines such as SME, Aktuality.sk, ... about cooking, gardening, DIY, politics,...Some of them prefer paper ones, so they can read them outside in the garden, or do crosswords.

5. Your attitude towards books, magazines... Introduce genres you like and your favourite writer

I love books. I am a bookworm and I could read them all day without doing anything else. I try to read everyday a little bit of the many books I have been reading, but it is impossible for me to read them all in one sitting since I have a hard time parting with them. The books I read are romance, but I love good detectives and mystery genres. I don't have a favourite writer. I don't want to search for them. I used to do it and they usually have just one good book and the other ones are not that good. The only one who is on my mind right now is Howard Philips Lovecraft.

6. Analyze a book written in English. Famous English and American writers

Many Slovaks read in English. It is written simply for the not so fluent speakers, but since we study English from early ages it is not that hard to understand the originals. We may have some problems with English slang and in this case the internet is a big help. Some of the world-known English writers are W. Shakespeare, J.R.R. Tolkien, Jane Austen, Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie

American writers: Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson, Ernest Hemingway, J.D. Salinger, Stephen King

7. Compare traditional books to e-books and audiobooks

I prefer to have books in a physical form, but the price of e-books is lower than of the traditional ones and it is not that there is a difference. I don't mind them and it is even more ecological since there is no paper used, I suppose. Audiobooks are just not for me. I like to imagine the voices, the characters, their personalities and everything about them in my head. I feel more comfortable when I can stop and think about what and why is the story progressing in that way

and not the other. With audiobooks I don't have that control over my thoughts and I am unable to concentrate on the plot since the voice of the reader is sometimes disruptive.

8. Explain low interest in reading at present (your point of view)

There are several reasons why there is a crisis in reading nowadays. There is a problem with prices. Nowadays books tend to be really expensive and lots of people wait until the books are not that popular anymore so the prices go down. Some books are even being copied which is not good for the seller or the author, but sometimes for a reader it is a necessity since not all of them have money to buy that many books. The next reason is, that people do not need to search for information in books as they used to in the past. They use internet to look up for something new. Instead of reading good fiction, they watch films. Teenagers also claim, that reading is really time consuming.

Reading is a hobby. And like with many other hobbies you need to grow up with it. It is not like one day you become interested out of nowhere. You need to know that something like a book exists. Many parents are not giving their kids attention like they used to, so the kids may also not know what fairy tales are. And if they do, it will be from the TV.

Simulation:

You are a keen reader but your friend does not like reading at all. He/she thinks it is a waste of time. Try to persuade your friend that reading has a positive effect on a person. Support your opinion with reasons, such as reading gives more knowledge, richer imagination, good speaking skills, etc. Give your friend some examples of famous Slovak and foreign writers, tell him/her about your favourite one.

Hi, listen. I know that you see reading as a bother, but maybe you should start now. I know that you really like mystery movies and I found a really good author and books from him are just amazing. The ending is always so weird, but you wouldn't expect it, like never. His name is... Oh, you're not interested? Not even a little? But it is written in English which you wanted to improve in to talk more with your foreign friends. You could be a fluent B2 speaker in no time! Still nothing? What about your imagination? This author is also creative and he could help you with making up horror characters and weird creatures like you always wanted to. Got you little interested, huh. Good, good. So, his name is H. P. Lovecraft. There are even audiobooks if that makes it easier for you. And Edgar Allan Poe has impressive poetry. It is for the thinkers like you. I don't know about Slovak ones... But I'm sure that I'll find someone for you.

