**22. The Book – a Person’s friend**

**a)** books – variety/ how people choose where and when they read

**b)** favourite author, genres

**c)** a book I have read by an author from an English-speaking country

**d)** Nobel prize winners for literature and their work

**e)** crisis in reading fiction (reasons, do people buy books?, services of libraries/bookshops )

Reading books is a favourite free time activity for lots of people. Books **accompany** (sprevádzať) people everywhere: we read them while we travel to school/work, wait in the waiting room at the doctor’s surgery, during breaks at school, on holiday while sunbathing lying on the beach. We can‘t imagine our lives without books. People usually read for pleasure (pre potešenie). There are books that give a chance to learn about the world around you. Other books give you a lot of information and advice (rada). And there are books about other people’s experiences (zážitky). **Books enrich (obohacujú) our lives, we learn a lot about cultural heritage, help us to develop our imagination, improve our vocabulary, me us escape from the real world and last but not least, they please our senses.**

**CHILDREN’S BOOKS** Our first books are usually read to us by our parents or grandparents. These are **fairytales** or stories and they normally have more pictures than text. They take children to the world of fantasy and teach them to **distinguish well from evil**. Children’s books by Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm are popular worldwide. Classic English children’s books like Alice in Wonderland (written by Lewis Carol) and Winnie the Pooh (written by A. A. Milne) are read and loved by many generations of English children.

**READING FICTION** (beletria)**VS. NON-FICTION**(náučná literature) Nowadays, people in Slovakia can read **both** original Slovak books and books translated from different languages, **mainly** English. They read books from both the fiction and non-fiction genres. Boys usually read **adventure stories** or **science fiction**, girls prefer **romances** or **novels**. Many young Slovaks have started to read in English. A lot of English books exist in their **simplified versions** and are not difficult to read for non-active speaker of English. **Adults** like reading **detective stories**/**spy novels**, **historical novels** or **travel books**. Some also read non-fiction genres, such as **biographies** or **scientific papers** (vedecné štúdie). There are people who enjoy reading **poetry**. There are not many of them because this genre is not easy to read. **Speculative fiction** for adults and **fantasy series** for children have become very popular genres in recent years. People also enjoy watching **film versions** of famous books which they have read. In Western Europe, people like reading **comic books** – there are more pictures than text and the story is usually **adventurous** and dynamic.

Literature can be divided (môže byť rozdelená) into **2 categories**: **non-fiction** books and **fiction** books. **Non-fiction books** (náučné knihy) usually serve as a source of information (slúžia ako zdroj informácií). There are textbooks (educational books containing information and ideas about some subject), **dictionaries** (books that tell us the meanings of words; monolingual dictionaries explain meaning of the word in the same language as the entry; bilingual dictionaries, e.g. English-Slovak d. explain meaning of the word in another language), **encyclopaedias** (large books or a set of books containing facts about different subjects **in alphabetical order**), **biographies** (book of a life of someone famous) , **autobiographies** (book of the author’s life), and **memoirs** (memories of events in someone’s life), **DIY (do it yourself) books, travel/history/art books and cookery books** (include recipes for cooking/baking/roasting).

**Fiction** (beletria) is **about imaginary people or events**. There two types of fiction books: **poetry and prose**. People who are keen on poetry can read poems by famous **poets** in books of poetry. Those who prefer prose can choose to read **tales, legends, short stories, novellas, romances, crime/spy novels, mystery novels, science fiction, westerns, thrillers or historical novels.**

**A story** (príbeh) in a book can be **set** (môže byť umiestnený) in a **real or imaginary place/time** in which the **characters** (postavy) live. The **plot** (dej, zápletka) – **the series of events** (sled udalostí) which form the story of a novel can be **narrated** (rozprávať) by the **author** or by one of the characters (**Narrator** is the one who is telling the story). Talented writers are excellent storytellers (rozprávači), able to **attract** (schopní pritiahnuť) readers and keep their **attention** (udržať ich pozornosť) from the very first page **until the plot** **culminates** (vrcholiť) at the end of the book.

**BOOKSHOPS AND LIBRARIES** Books can be bought in **a wide range of** bookshops. Some are small and quite **specialised**; others are situated in big shopping centres. People can drink a cup of tea or coffee there and sometimes **see a presentation of a new book**. Bestsellers can also be bought at **newsstands** (novinové stánky) or in supermarkets. It is becoming more and more popular to buy a book **via the Internet** from an Internet bookshop. It is also possible to read a book **in electronic form**; such books are called **e-books**. In England and other countries in Western Europe **publishing companies** **publish** many more books than in Slovakia. People buy them in mega stores or small specialised bookshops (e.g. children’s bookshops).

The place where books are **lent** (lend – požičať niekomu)and **borrowed** (požičať si) for a fee (an **annual fee** /ročný poplatok/ for the library **membership**) is called a **library**. A good one is usually **equipped** **with** (vybavený) a wider range of books which are lent to library members for an **agreed lending period** (výpožičná doba). If it is **overdue** (oneskorený) the lending can be **extended** (rozšírený) for some time. **Unique** books, **current** and older **issues** (číslo, výtlačok) of magazines and newspapers are **available** (dostupné) just for reading in **study rooms** where **silence is requested** (je vyžadované ticho). **Nowadays**, **almost** every educational institution and **public library** **provide** (poskytovať) an on-line service which helps readers **check** all information about the books they request.

**READING CRISIS In general**, people in our country do not buy many books. There are **several** **reasons** why there is a crisis of reading nowadays. The first one is that books are getting more and more expensive and people cannot **afford** to buy many of them. This also **lead**s (viesť) to **illegal photocopying**, mainly among students who often copy textbooks. The second reason is that people do not read so much anymore. People do not **look for** (hľadať) information in books (such as encyclopaedias or textbooks) as much as they **used to** **in the past**. They need to **save as much time as possible**. **Therefore**, they prefer to look up the information on the Internet. **Instead of** (namiesto)reading good fiction, they watch films. Reading a book **takes** days or weeks, watching a movie just one or two hours, and on top of that, almost **all classic novels** have been **made into films (zfilmovaný)**. People do not need to **concentrate** so much when they watch a movie, they do not need to **imagine** things. Everything is ready for them on the **screen**; moreover, teenagers prefer the **interactive virtual reality** of computer games. They **participate** (zúčastniť sa)in the game, **take action (konať)**, and feel what the **heroes** (hero/heroine) feel. Adults read more and more magazines because it takes less time and concentration than reading a book.

**WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF BOOKS?** To change this negative trend it is very important to **develop** a good **relationship** with reading and literature form a very young age. When a positive relationship is developed, books **enrich** (obohatiť)our lives, we read **for pleasure** (pre potešenie), we train our imagination. Books make us think, **amuse** (pobaviť, rouzveseliť) and give us answers to some questions. A good book is also a **pleasant way to escape from the real world** (príjemný spôsob ako uniknúť z reality). When we read a lot, we **improve** (zdokonaliť) our **vocabulary** (slovná zásoba) too, people who read more, verbally express themselves better.

Some people think that books will **die out** (vymrieť, vymiznúť)one day; they say that everything will be read in electronic form and people will have less and less time to read books. Others **argue** that reading is a hobby for many people and books are a part of the **cultural heritage** (kultúrne dedičstvo) of every **nation** (národ). That is why they think that the book will never cease to exist and is **irreplaceable (nenahraditeľné)**.

Every year, the Nobel Prize for Literature is **awarded** to the writer whose work of fiction is **considered** (je považovaná) to be a **unique literary achievement** (za jedinečný literárny výkon). There are many writers who are Nobel Prize winners: **William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, and Ernest Hemingway from the U.S.A - G. B. Shaw, Harold Pinter and Rudyard Kipling from Great Britain.**

**William Faulkner** for his contribution (prispenie) to modern American novel – the theme (téma) of his novels is the decay (úpadok) of the old South, as represented by Sartoris and Compson families and the emergence of cruel and arrogant newcomers, the Snopeses. He invented lots of characters typical of the historical growth (historický rast) and subsequent (následný) decadence of the South. The human drama in Faulkner's novels is built on the model of the actual (skutočný) historical drama extending (tiahnucej sa ) over almost a century and a half. Each story and each novel contributes to the construction of a whole, which is the imaginary Yoknapatawpha County and its inhabitants. Their theme is the decay of the old South, as represented by the Sartoris and Compson families, and the emergence of ruthless and brash newcomers, the Snopeses. novels: The Sound and the Fury ( Bľabot a bes) where he depicted the downfall of the Compson family seen through the minds of several characters; Other novels: Absolom, Absolom; Intruder in the Dust (Neodpočívaj v pokoji),

**John Steinbeck** who wrote social novels dealing with the economic problems of rural labour e.g. Of Mice and Man – the story of an imbecile giant Lennie, East of Eden and his masterpiece (majstrovské dielo) The Grapes of Wrath (Ovocie hnevu), the story of Oklahoma tenant farmers (námezdní farmári) who, unable to earn a living from the land, moved to California where they became migratory workers,

**Ernest Hemingway** for his anti-war novels The Sun also Rises and A Farewell to Arms (Zbohom zbraniam), the study of an American ambulance officer's disappointment in the war and his role as a deserter. Hemingway used his experiences as a reporter during the civil war in Spain as the background for his most ambitious novel For whom the bells toll (komu zvonia do hrobu), the short story An Old Man and the Sea, the story of an old fisherman's journey, his long and lonely struggle with a fish and the sea, and his victory in defeat (porážka).

British writers awarded by a Nobel Prize: **John Galsworthy** (1867-1933). Received the 1932 Nobel Prize for Literature "for his distinguished art of narration (vynikajúce rozprávačské umenie) which takes its highest form in *The Forsyte Saga,.*

[**Rudyard Kipling**](http://classiclit.about.com/od/kiplingrudyard/) Rudyard Kipling wrote novels, poems and short stories--mostly set in India and Burma ", B.B. Shaw *Pygmalion* (1912), a witty study of phonetics as well as a clever treatment of middle-class morality and class distinction, proved some of Shaw's greatest successes on the stage. It is a combination of the dramatic, the comic, and the social corrective that gives Shaw's comedies their special flavour.

**G. B Shaw** the first writer awarded by the Nobel Prize - a great playwright, novelist and critical essayist wrote more than 60 plays which deal mainly with social problems – Widower’s Houses, The Devil’s Disciple, Mrs. Warren’s Profession, You Never Can Tell, Caesar and Cleopatra, Man and Superman, Major Barbara, and finally Pygmalion – on which the famous musical My Fair Lady is based. . As well as Oscar Wilde, the author of The Picture of Dorian Gray, he is known for his comedy. They were full of wit and humour.

and **Harold Pinter 2005**, he wrote 29 plays including The Birthday Party, The Caretaker, 21 screenplays (filmový scenár), and directed 27 theatre productions. .

Questions to answer:

1. Did you read a lot as a child? Do you remember your first book?
2. What kind of books do young Slovaks read?
3. Are comic books popular with Slovak readers? Why/Why not? Where can you buy/borrow a book?
4. How can you get hold of a book?
5. Do you prefer reading a book in the original language or in translation? Why?
6. Which book are you going to read in the near future?
7. Have you ever read an e-book? Why are they becoming so popular?
8. What do you know about the winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature?
9. Have you ever read a book written by an English or American author? If yes, say which writer/s and what you have read by them.
10. Why do some people prefer going to the cinema to watch a filmed version of a book instead of reading the book?
11. What kind of books are usually read to small kids? What authors of such fiction do you know?
12. Which literary genres are most popular among teenagers nowadays?
13. What are comic books?
14. What are the main reasons for the crisis in reading fiction?
15. What are the consequences (následky) of the crisis?