**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 and institutes)

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. 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).

 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), encyclopaedias (large books or a set of books containing facts about different subjects in alphabetical order), biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs, DIY (do it yourself) books, travel/history/art books and cookery books.

**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, 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.

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. .