

Books and Literature

BOOK – Explain what is a book's front matter/body matter/end matter and what each part of the book contains (see subpage English for graphics and printers)

Describe your favourite book written by an English speaking author or your favourite film (preferably based on a book) and filmmaker

Literature can be divided into 2 categories:

non – fiction books (textbooks, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, travel/history/art books and cookery books, text books such for learners languages)

fiction books – Poetry: poems, sonnets – Poézia: básne, sonety

Prose: tales, short stories, novellas, novels – Próza: príbehy, poviedky, novely, romány

Genres: romances, crime stories, science fiction, fantasy books, thrillers, horrors, westerns and historical novels

To the most famous British and American writers belong:

British

William Shakespeare – the most famous writer in the British history – Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, King Lear

William Defoe – the author of traveller books and novels – Robinson Crusoe

Agatha Christie – one of the most famous detective stories and novels writers of all times – Murder on the Orient Express, Death on the Nile

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – creator of the most famous detective of all times – Sherlock Holmes

Charles Dickens – one of the most famous novelists– David Copperfield, Oliver Twist

Charlotte and Emily Bronte – famous women novelists of the 18th century – Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights

American

Ernest Hemingway – wrote novels and short stories about war, love and human relationships – The Old Man and the Sea was one of his masterpieces awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. He was one of the great American writers of the 20th century. He was born on 21 July 1899, in Oak Park, Illinois. His family was strict and very religious. Soon after his graduation he went to Kansas City and worked as a journalist for the Star newspaper. Hemingway was fascinated by war. Many of his books were about war. He married four times. After his marriages had failed, he began to drink heavily. Hemingway killed himself with a shotgun. **The old man and the Sea** - An old Cuban fisherman Santiago goes to the sea after 84 days without a catch. He goes without the Boy, who helped him for first forty days. Two days and two nights a gigantic fish, which has caught itself on the Boy-made bait, trails his boat to the

sea. Almost immediately after he kills the fish with a harpoon and at the point of his power he fixes it to the boat, the sharks begin to attack the dead fish. Although an Old man is struggling hard with them, they eat the fish. He returns to the village half-dead of tiredness.

John Steinbeck – wrote novels mainly about the social problems in America in the first half of the 20th century – Grapes of Wrath. Of Mice and Men

H.G.Wells – the author of one of the first science fiction novels – The Time Machine

J.D.Salinger – wrote psychological novels – Catcher in the Rye

Books can be bought in a wide range of **bookshops**, in big **shopping centres**, in an **internet bookshops in electronic form**- these are called **e-books**. We can also borrow **books from a library**.

Our first books are usually read to us by our parents and grandparents. These are **fairy tales** or tales and they normally have more pictures than text. They take children to the world of fantasy and teach them to distinguish good from evil. The children's book by **Hans Christian Andersen** and **the Brothers Grimm** are popular worldwide. English classic children's books like **Alice in Wonderland** (written by Lewis Carroll) and **Winnie the Pooh** (A.A. Milne) are read and loved by many generations of English children. Unfortunately, today's parents are very busy so they rather seat them in front of TV or a computer instead of reading book to them.

Many young people prefer watching television, surfing the Web, listening to their iPods, talking on cell phones, and instant-messaging their friends rather than reading. Instead of reading books they rather watch films. Still, there is a number of young people who like reading books. Especially girls are more avid (zanietenejšie) readers than boys. They like to read teenage girl romance books or novels. Boys usually read adventure stories, fantasy books or science fiction. The most popular books among teenagers are Harry Potter, The Lord of the ring or Eragon.

Lots of young people prefer watching films instead of reading books, because reading takes days or week, while watching a film just two hours.

Every year, the Swedish Academy announces **the Nobel Prize winners for literature**. Winning the Nobel Prize for literature is one of the highest honours for a writer. Books by such authors **become widely translated and sold**. (Samuel Beckett, Ernest Hemingway)

In Slovakia people can read Slovak books or books translated from different languages. They read both fiction and non-fiction genres. Adults like to read **detective stories, historical novels or books of travels**.

In Western Europe (Belgium, France, England) people like to read **comic books**- there are more pictures than text and story is usually adventurous and dynamic.

In England and other countries of Western Europe publishing companies publish many more books than in Slovakia. There are two main reasons why people in **Slovakia** don't buy so many books. **The first one** is that books are getting more and more expensive and people cannot afford them. This also leads to illegal photocopying, mainly among students. **The second one** is that people do not look for information in books as much as they used to in the past. They prefer to look up the information on the Internet. Instead of reading good fiction they watch films. They need to save as much time as possible.

Books enrich our lives. We read for pleasure, we train our imagination and fantasy. Books **make us think, amuse us** and **give answers** to some questions. We **improve** our **vocabulary**, too. Some people think that books will die out one day, because everything will be read in **electronic form**. Others argue that reading is a **hobby** for many people and books are a part of the **cultural heritage** (kultúrneho dedičstva) **of every nation**.