



**Slovak
Section of IBBY**

SLOVAK IBBY NEWSLETTER

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SEMINAR "WE READ, WE LISTEN, WE PERCEIVE IN THE SPACE OF BOOKS I., II."



On **April 28**, parents, teachers, librarians, and others interested met together to learn more about supporting children's reading skills and their development of perception. Some difficulties regarding this topic were discussed as well. Every participant had the opportunity to find their own story in the space of a book, as everybody was curious about something else. We may imagine a book as the space into which a child enters to grow familiar with it and their own self. There, they perceive surroundings and shape opinions. The seminar was led by Timotea Vráblová.

On **June 16**, an open follow-up took place for the public of "We Read, We Listen, We Perceive in the Space of Book II." led by the lecturer, Mrs. Timotea Vráblová. During the two hour creative workshop on reading, the participating parents, teachers, and librarians worked with examples selected from various children's books. The lecturer pointed out various creative methods of working with the text: how to capture children's attention through the introductory motivational game, how to talk with them about sensitive themes and feelings through the plot or the heroes without them feeling their own self uncovered, how to reveal the setting of fables and learn more from them than basic moral lessons, and how to communicate with children while reading so that the book helps them understand their inner experience, creates values, and develops their personality and creativity.

ROOMS OF READING

The Room of Reading is an innovative approach on how to work with a book. It offers children a chance to experiment with a story, characters, events, and environment in a scenic laboratory. The point is not about creative reading, but rather about exhibiting a concept (together with a scenographer) and installing a story, in which children may move freely "in the midst of a book". The environment may be changed; children may touch objects, work with characters, enter the plot, and solve various tasks. The Room of Reading supports children's perception and extends the context of a literary story by reaching them in situations common to them. Thus, a book becomes a laboratory in which children are inspired to approach activities creatively, experience unknown emotions, and form their own opinions. The Room of Reading exhibition is always set up based on a certain subject (from a book) at BIBIANA, for the period of 1 to 2 months, according to the interest of the teachers, parents, and children, who come to workshops in groups during open hours. The age category for children is from 6 to 12 years. (Minimum age required is 5, maximum 14).





ROOM OF READING "THE BOOK DIEROŽRÚT AS A SCENIC LABORATORY" (April - May)

Timotea Vráblová, the coordinator of the Centre for Children's Literature, Reading, and the Slovak Section of IBBY, along with stage manager Mária Bačová, utilised the picture book DIEROŽRÚT (publishing company SLOVART) as a "scenic laboratory", in which children journeyed in their own reading microcosmos. Through creative games, the children reflected on small creatures that feed themselves on holes. As the children accompanied Dierožrút on part of his journey, and then Dierožrútko on her journey, they had an opportunity to reflect on the consequence of the

feeding, and what these holes may represent in the real lives of people. This adaptation of a rather difficult book that deals with existential questions was tailored for children aged 4 to 10 in an interesting way, so that groups of children at any level could develop the perception and comprehension important for deeper reading.

ROOM OF READING "THE SECRET OF CASTLE TREASURE" (June – November)

The Room of Reading, whose creation was inspired by Timotea Vráblová and art was designed by Juliána Dubovská, offered visitors rebuses as well as many hints to find solutions. "The Secret of Castle Treasure" focused on developing comprehension of the symbolic language used in legends and fairy tales. It was inspired by both the legend of the Treasure at Red Stone Castle and Ján Milčák's collection of fairy tales, which combined the theme of searching for mysteries with the concept of human identity. Activities of interacting with objects allowed children to find the meanings of symbolic language in literary pieces. Children had an opportunity to create, in their own symbolic language, a reference for those who came to the Room of Reading after them, to leave cues to their own reflections, or clues to help solve the rebuses.



BOOK FEAST

The Book Feast (with its motto "BOOKS CAN BRING YOU FURTHER!") was organised by BIBIANA – the Centre for Children's Literature, Reading, and the Slovak Section of IBBY -- on Saturday evening, **May 26**.

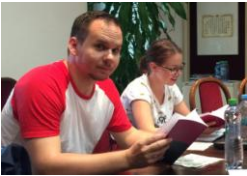


This open air festival brought to Hviezdoslav Square not only children's books, but numerous creative activities, workshops, songs, dramas, reader's puzzles, and a rich programme on the main stage, where performances of writers, actors, singers, musicians, researchers, and of course, children, took place. The goal of the Book Feast was to increase the interest of children and their families in cultivating reading, which develops children's perception, empathy, and creativity.

To achieve this, we involved various types of art in cooperation with our partners (libraries, publishing companies, schools, and civic associations) that focus on children's reading.

We prepared various competitions for the children: drama, dancing, music, as well as book puzzles, workshops, musical fairy tales, and creative reading tournaments. Schools in Bratislava participated in these activities for the first time.





SEMINAR "TO THE NEW SEASON!"

Puppet performers and creators of puppet performances kicked off "To the New Season!" together with Timotea Vráblová on **May 31**. During the expert seminar at BIBIANA, they gained information and skills on how to use the puppet theatre to support children's reading.

PRESS CONFERENCE

In the beginning of the school year, on **September 6**, we held a press conference at BIBIANA for the Centre for



Children's Literature, Reading, and the Slovak Section of IBBY, at which we introduced new programmes starting in September. The course of seminars, "Open Gate to Reading", is an educational programme for adults. "From Ear to Ear" is a creative project of scheduled workshops for parents with their children. "Reading Promoters" is a long-term educational project for older pupils. At the press conference, we also showed journalists a short illustration from the Reading Room's "The Secret of Castle Treasure".

SEMINAR "OPEN GATE TO READING – BLUE MOUNTAIN"

The first seminar in the course for parents, teachers of pre-primary education, and librarians, called "Blue Mountain", took place September 8, at BIBIANA. It focused on building a relationship between books and toddlers, even nurslings. The participants focused on how to work intentionally with children in their earliest years. They learnt when to start stimulating a toddler's interest in books, how to build up a baby's inner motivation, and what influences the development of a child's perception, so that children may, step-by-step, grow closer to books. The seminar was led by Timotea Vráblová.



WORKSHOP "FROM EAR TO EAR"

Children are exposed to superiority in visual perception due to contemporary technologies. What happens to their hearing? A child's imagination is developed to a greater extent when children are not visually stimulated. Based on this fact, the programme "From Ear to Ear" runs once a month since it started on September 15. The programme, developed in cooperation with Radio and Television of Slovakia, is aimed at children aged six to twelve and their parents. During the workshop that takes two hours, the participants are actively engaged, and various forms of sound stimuli are used to

further develop their imagination and cultivate reading. The programme is led by RTVS dramaturge Beata Panáková.

FROM EAR TO EAR – HOW EMA CEASED TO BE AFRAID



A radio dramatisation of Jana Bodnárová's fairy tale *How Ema Ceased to be Afraid* was presented to children aged six to twelve and their parents by the workshop *FROM EAR TO EAR*.

The children listened to various sound samples as well. Under the supervision of Beata Panáková, a playwright for Radio and Television of Slovakia, the children also solved sound riddles and played charades, further developing their auditory perception.

PROGRAMME FOR TEENAGERS "WE ARE LOOKING FOR READING PROMOTERS"

A teenage programme was established for selected students who have a good approach to literature. Its goal is to stir up students in building a reading culture, helping them find broader fulfilment in their lives. The first workshop (of a series, workshops taking place once a month) took place on **October 4** at BIBIANA. The programme stimulates the oldest students of both elementary and high schools to be active in their community and to promote reading to their younger schoolmates.



SEMINAR "OPEN GATE TO READING – WHERE HAS THE SUN HIDDEN HIMSELF?"



The subsequent seminar in the course for parents, teachers of pre-primary education, and librarians, carrying the name "Where Has the Sun Hidden Himself?" was stimulating with interesting ideas. Guidance was given on how to work intentionally with children from an early age: how to adopt characters in a story even outside of the book's context; how to build up a baby's perception, creativity, fantasy, and imagination; and how to use a book to open children to a new world of emotions, events, and experiences. These creative methods should enrich their personality as well as influence not only their approach to books when they grow up, but also their relationships with their neighbourhood and surroundings.