



Erasmus+

Projekta Nr. 2019-1-PL01-KA201-0655421

Does creative writing help to read with comprehension?

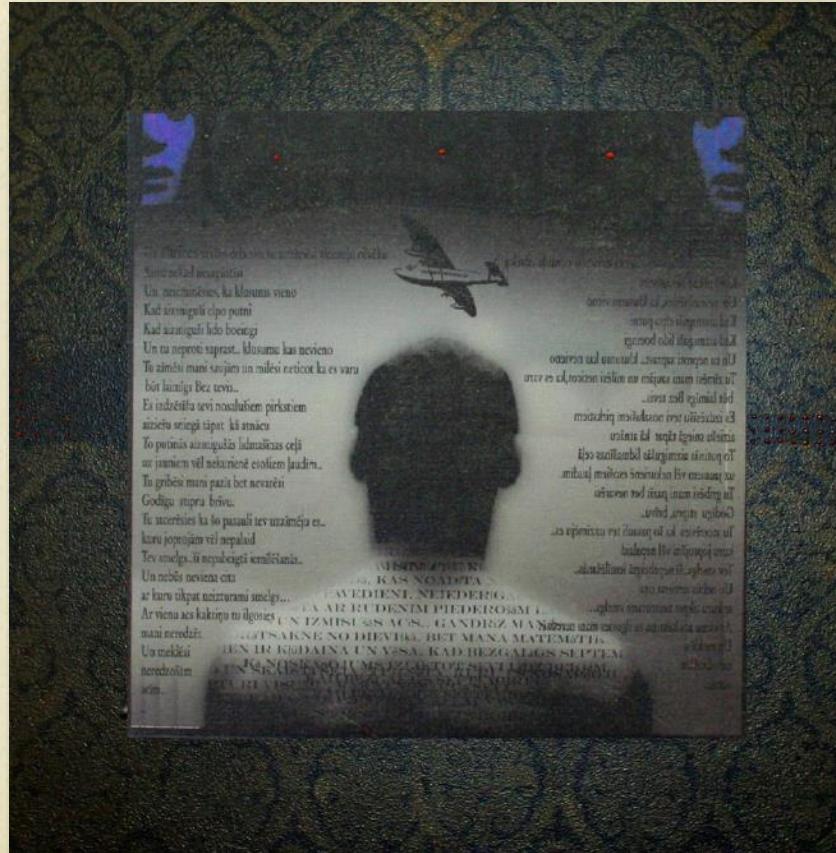
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my politics?
not to read newspapers
and to watch the sky
with such interest
that it breaks my heart

(Māris Salējs)

Is literature still the same as it was before?





Observe/ listen/talk

(close-reading, semiotics, structuralism) + creative writing



How to challenge the curiosity

- * change the curriculum (political, up-today content instead of classical examples) (“The Plague”, “Silva Rerum”, “1984”)
- * be provocative and personal (is it good/bad, “tapestry or rag”)
- * performances/projects





- personal experience
- creative tasks (inc. drama, stylization, visualization, writing a novella, monologues, use of set vocabulary, tweet the summary of entire book in 143 signs)
- diary of experiencing culture







Diary of cultural experiences

- at least two diary entries (critical or creative, not including compulsory home reading)
- short reviews, essays
- participation in “Laligaba” young readers' alternative jury

What to evaluate:

- technical skills
- argumentation
- uniqueness of the stale and taste
- is there a creative concept

Set vocabulary for a creative text

female name, male name, **suns** (animal with difficult spelling), **birztala** (place), **zibens, mēness, rudsens** (several words with difficult spelling describing time, weather), **liktenis** (fate), **mēls, pelēks** (colors), **četrpadsmīt, 1000** (numerals), **lūzt, mīrt** (verbs), **ne tikai bet arī, tikko** (any other difficult words requiring knowledge of spelling)

- elements of structure (portray, dialog, description of the set etc.)
- elements of genre identification

What is quite typical for contemporary Latvian poetry?

variation of modern aesthetics, classical form mostly used only in ironic or stylistically fixed situations (imitations of folklore or some semantics)

variation of urban poetry - a pastoral intonation mixes with strong irony or alienation, and still presence of imaginary of nature

distance from fake daily optimism, skeptical mode

influence from the culture of the ancient/classic world, existentialism, postmodernism, intensive use of cultural signs

typically romantic images changed by the means of an unexpected, paradoxical poetic context, irony, a dramatic and alienated expression, a stoic skepticism and emotional freedom

use of visual elements

poets with PhD

Some theses on history of Latvian poetry

First published poetry book with artistic significance – Juris Alunāns «Dziesmiņas» («Songs») 1856, poetics of national National Romanticism.

Some form of Romanticism appears never to have ended.

Last century – golden age of Latvian poetry (first decades – rise of modernism, huge stylistic versatility)

Due to historic, cultural and political circumstances, the timelines of several literary movements and trends in Latvian literature differ from those of the West.

Some theses on hystory of poetry

Soviet era – censorship may be efficient to poetics even if it is devastating to poets; huge demand for poetry versus limited publishing possibilities in 90's.

Angst and the social engagement of literature in Latvian culture forced a poetic revolt — a search for an individual metaphysical and creative freedom.

Typical image of a poets mission in readers mind was fixed during Soviet era – a poet was expected to be national tribune, historian, take care of politics, ethics, even ecology, strong respect to folklore and language. Thus general audience lost cordial coherence with a poet when he/she lost implicit content of the poetry.

Art for arts sake is not respected by general audience still as a poetry in their mind has fixed rhythm, verse, form, even content and (terrifying!) even practical use of poetry.

What is typical tendencies for poetry of last decade?

- Significant presence of *live classics* like Rokpelnis, Skujenieks, Zandere
- Prose poetry or features from liroepic dominate, poetry tends to become more and more epic (longer, more descriptive) – Gaile, Manfelde, Vērdiņš, Auziņa, Viguls, Ostups
- Representation of social issues, depiction of ordinary daily life, fragile and socialy influenced human being as a *lyrical self* in poetry – Manfelde, Gaile, Auziņa, Ogrīņš, Vērdiņš, Rudzīte
- urban mentality in poetry – Ogrīņš, Gaile, Manfelde, Viguls, Rokpelnis, Langa, E.Aivars, R.Briedis, M.Pujāts, Balode
- Apocalyptic intonation – Draguns, Langa, Ogrīņš

What is typical for poetry of last decade?

- Metaphysical view-point – Rokpelnis, Manfelde, Sirmā, Bērziņš, Langa
- Hedonic, sensible, even erotic content and/ or strong feminine representation – Gaile, Auziņa, Bērziņa, Vērdiņš
- Ironic poetry or parodies, huge number of symbols and cultural signs – R.Briedis, Skujenieks, Rokpelnis, Vērdiņš, Lukaševičs, Pujāts
- Experiments with poetic form or means of artistic expression – E.Aivars, Bērziņš, Raups, Lukaševičs
- Return to lyrical voice in poetry – Zandere, Salējs, Sirmā, Vādonis

Thank you!