

The Reader 47

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A trip to the Jagiellonian University

By Adam Fras kl. IVE

On March 2nd, a group of our students went to visit the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, with the purpose of participating in the Festival of Language and Culture called "W dwa dni dookoła świata" (Around the World in Two Days).

They participated in two lectures. The first one was named "The Future of the British Monarchy", during which Dr. Izabella Curyłło-Klag was talking about the future of the British royal family. During that lecture Ms. Curyłło-Klag presented possible scenarios of what will happen to this institution in the next years and decades.

The next lecture was led by Dr. Marta Rey-Radlińska, who is experienced in translating Swedish literature. She introduced the audience to the wide world of Scandinavian religions – their gods, the beginning and the end of the world, and the origin and purpose of humans.

Last but not least, the students were welcome to explore the scientific clubs present at the university and talk with the university students present in them to connect with people who share their hobbies.

Many students have described the trip as both entertaining and educational so I strongly recommend a visit to the Jagiellonian University of Kraków to you.



(In the picture we can see a large group of students standing in front of the entrance of the university. On the right we can see teachers supervising the whole group.)

A Rapid Emerald Dance

The image depicts RMC's dancers during a lesson on a Scottish dance (probably a jig)



If someone asked me what people love, I'd reply that nothing is better than food, than sleep and so on. Dancing wouldn't get placed in the 1st category. However, all the signs prove otherwise.

We may only guess when the humans began to dance. The ancient Greeks showed different forms of dance on their pottery, but, as far as I'm concerned, we should look to the prehistory. So, since we cannot find the origins, let us look at something closer to our times.

A couple of days ago, our school joined a project whose objective is to spread the knowledge on the Irish culture and history. It turns out, a certain dance coming from there has way more to tell than you might suppose.

Meet the swift jig. Depending on whom you ask, it's of the Irish, Scottish or English origin. While dancing it, you count to three, just like while performing a waltz.

The jig belongs to an important part of our European culture. It used to be a traditional movement in Baroque suite. Suite is a cycle of dances tied in pairs slow-quick. Most of them were named by the French, even if they were born in, for example, Spain. Don't be amazed, we all dance the polonaise, not the "polski". Jig was so crucial that even the well-known J.S. Bach wrote a few dozens of music pieces based on it. I had an occasion to dance a jig myself.

Believe me: you may get exhausted

By Kacper Guziak III e

By Nikola Burzyńska kl.IIc

Future in cards

A lot of people want to predict their future. There are a few popular ways but my favourite one is spreading tarot cards. You can go to a card reader but you will have to pay, usually it's about 200 PLN. A better idea is to learn it by yourself. I did it from old books that I found at home but you can also read about it on the Internet.

There are simple rules and information for beginners:

- You're not supposed to buy your own deck, you're supposed to have it given to you.
- Try to feel the cards, use your intuition.
- Try to remember a few card meanings every day. It can be hard because it's a deck of 78 different cards but it's very important.
- The two basic spreads are three card pull and the Celtic Cross. Three cards represent the past, present and future. Later you can use nine card pull with every line representing each area.

If you use regular cards remember to use 32 cards - from sevens to ases. Each card has a different meaning but you can divide them into groups:

- Spades connect to obstacles, loss, planning, and intellect.
- Clubs represent future actions, travel, and creative thinking.
- Diamonds connect to work and money.
- Hearts represent your feelings, relationships, and home.



“The picture shows a few tarot cards”

LITTLE BARTEK'S DREAMS

Last week, while in the park, I saw a paper.

Little Bartek dreams were there. He wrote there that his dream, to go to Rome, had come true. His mother was excited about the event. She bought a ticket and they flew to Italy the next day. They visited the museum, the theater and at the end of the day went to the swimming pool. On the second day they went to a popular cafe called „Italy Cafè”. There were very delicious cakes and the best spaghetti. He couldn't wait to go to the Vatican because he was curious to see what it looks like. Unfortunately, the basilica was closed and they went back to the hotel, because they were flying home the next day. At the end of the letter, he wrote that when he grows up, he will take his family to Italy and live there.

It was the best thing that happened to me and that I could read. Remember that dreams come true!

By Rafał Stolarczyk I C

Typical Life of Atypical Boy

Sam Gardner is the main character of the series "Atypical", which you can watch on Netflix. He is a normal boy who is in high school, but he is somewhat different because of his illness, which is autism (total developmental disorder).

In this series we experience his life, hobbies and problems which he has to deal with. From this series we can see some interesting things like how people with mental illness perceive feelings, what makes him frustrated and how he cooperates with other people. Nowadays, when most of us would pick some series about some superheroes or detectives, it's pleasant to watch something just heart-warming and honest. Here we have a drama mixed with laughter, sadness with happiness or shrug with anger. This series also debunks myths because people often think that a person with autism is destined to live at the bottom of the society. Meanwhile, Sam is a normal high schooler, has a job and meets up with a pretty and smart girl. He is not a creep hiding in his room but a boy with a unique brain who deserves respect and some understanding.

I firmly believe that "Atypical" will open eyes for more people and give inspiring lesson of tolerance.

By Natalia Kręć 4E



In the picture we can see Sam with his sister and parents sitting in front of the aquarium where there are swimming penguins (behind our back)

Do you know America?

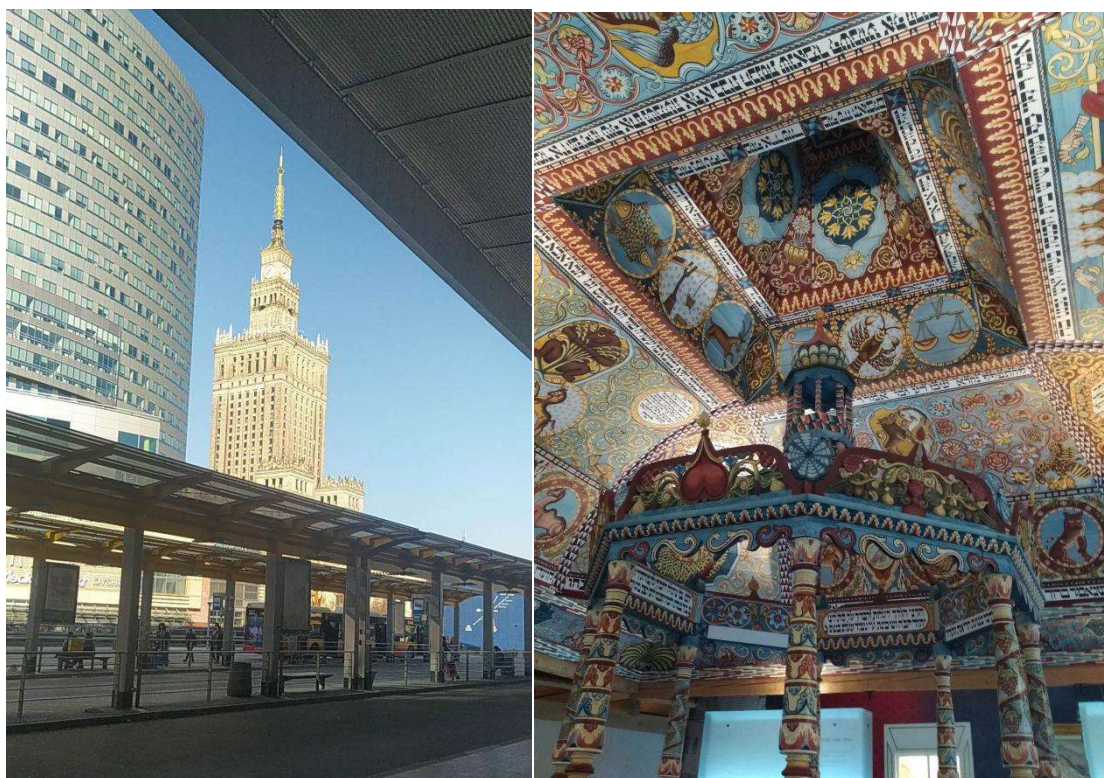
Some time ago in our school there was announced a competition called "I know America", in which one of our students - Milena Saturnus (3E) got to the final stage!

For 4 days did our friend have an opportunity to take part in a trip fully paid for by the organizers of the competition. The final stage of the exam itself lasted only 15 minutes. The remaining time the participants could admire, the POLIN museum, the Studio Theater, the Neon museum and the American school. In addition to sightseeing, the participants met students from around the world, thanks to which they learned their traditions, culture and they could improve their English.

I highly recommend these type of competitions to everyone because it is the best motivation to improve your English skills.

By Paulina Półrola 3E

The first picture shows The Palace of Culture and Science and the main railway station in Warsaw. In the second picture we can see a part of exhibition in The POLIN museum. Both pictures were taken by Milena Saturnus.



Cheesecake bunnies

Cheesecake bunnies are sweet buns that will work as delicious snacks but also as decorations for your Easter table.

Ingredients

Cake:

- 1 cup of milk
- 2 teaspoons of yeast
- 75 g of sugar
- 2 eggs
- 560 g of flour
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 100 g of butter

Cheese mass:

- 250 g of mascarpone cheese
- 30 g of sugar
- 1 lemon
- 1 spoon of potato flour
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract



The picture shows cheesecake bunnies.

Preparation:

- Heat the milk, combine with yeast and sugar. Leave the mixture prepared in this way for about 5 minutes.
 - In a big bowl mix foamed yeasts, eggs and salt. Mix all ingredients and little by little add the butter.
 - Put the kneaded dough in a fridge to grow up.
 - Mix together all ingredients of the cheese mass until a uniform consistence is reached.
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- Put the risen dough on a floured top and roll out into a 30x40 cm rectangle.
 - Put the cheese mass on the cake leaving a distance of 3 cm from the long side. Roll it along the long side and cut it into 8 equal parts.
 - Unwrap each of the small rolls from the side where there is no cheese mass and cut halfway through.
 - With a dry tip, give it a pointed shape to rabbit ears.
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- Put ready bunnies into a warm place for 30 - 90 minutes.
 - Cover the bunnies with butter and bake for 20 - 25 minutes at 180 degrees.

Bon Appetit!

By Oliwia Bartnik kl.ID

Midsommar : Horror set in daylight,

By Julia Lisowska II C

When it comes to horror films, I tend to look for a complicated storyline, full of twists and turns. One of my favourite directors, Ari Aster has created „Midsommar”, which has exceeded my expectations and made me rethink my ways of understanding modern horror.

Movies such as this one are usually connected with something being hidden in the darkness or really frightening atmosphere. That is not the case with „Midsommar” - most of the story is told during daytime. Characters are mainly surrounded by flowers and rural architecture. At some point, the movie becomes really gory and full of gruesome scenes. However, the light scenery doesn't change, which brings out the originality of the idea behind this production.

Storyline follows a group of friends who are invited to spend a couple of days in a closed community in Sweden. Their stay happens to be during a festival to celebrate summer. They are enjoying their stay until they notice that something really evil is taking place at this place. During these events, the main character Dani (played by Florence Pugh) is going through a crisis and growing to accept her new life, which can be really difficult to do alone. The rest can be found out by yourselves!

„Midsommar” is a must-see for all fans of modern horror. The camera work and the level of hidden details are incredible. Overall the movie is ambitious and above all unsettling, which is perfect for horror freaks like me.



The picture shows a young woman dressed in a flower gown with a flower crown. She is sad and looking directly at the viewer.

The city of love

Tomasz Cyndecki, Zuzanna Bigora and Natalia Łuszczyn, Ila

These days, almost everyone has heard of the story of the lovers of Verona. But do you know why 'Romeo and Juliet' is considered one of the most legendary books of all time?

Imagine living in 16th century England and hearing for the first time a story about lovers who come from feuding families. It must have been groundbreaking at the time. To be honest, we feel that even now it is ingenious. The plot, which is very surprising, makes this book a masterpiece. However, the thing that made us instantly fall in love with Shakespeare's gem was the stunning depiction of Verona, which remains the most popular location from the book. It is a city that looks so magical, as if it is from a fairy tale, but in reality it is a real city in Italy. Reading 'Romeo and Juliet', you can feel those hot summer nights when the lovers secretly met. Undoubtedly, no one has shown any city in such an atmospheric way before and probably no one will do so again.

In conclusion, 'Romeo and Juliet' is recognised as one of the most iconic books of all time due to its unique atmosphere. We totally recommend this book and hope as many of you as possible will read this classic!



The picture shows the town of Verona, where Romeo and Juliet secretly met.

Love and darkness

The picture shows Jane Eyre wearing a dark gown.



Did you know that 'Jane Eyre', written by Charlotte Brontë, is a classic Victorian Gothic story about an orphaned child who later seeks her place in the world as a young woman?

The main character shows us five stages in her life. One is Jane's childhood at Gateshead Hall, where she is emotionally and physically abused by her aunt and cousins. Next is her education at Lowood School, where she gains friends but suffers deprivation and oppression. The third stage is her time as a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she falls in love with her mysterious employer, Edward Fairfax Rochester. The next one is her time at Moor House. The final stage is her reunion and marriage to her beloved Rochester.

The whole story is amazing and there are many reasons why this character catches our attention. Firstly, we quickly fall in love with her fiery spirit. We cannot help Jane, but we admire her strength and morale. Secondly, Jane's world is difficult and often dark, but we also see glimpses of her romantic passion. Brontë's novel introduces a gothic style located less in real ghosts and more in the dark horrors of the mind, nightmares, delusions and madness.

We wholeheartedly recommend this book to you!

Kaja Jakubczyk, Karina Troszczyńska, Przemysław Woźniak, Ila

Health and fitness as a lifestyle

What comes to your mind when you think of health and fitness? Most people, when they hear about it, imagine it is diet and exercise. What would you think if I said it is not just dieting and working out?

The definition of the word lifestyle refers to a way of life that reflects the attitudes and values of a person or group. When you start to see health and fitness as a lifestyle, you develop behaviour that will improve many areas of your life. As I mentioned earlier, health and fitness is not just about diet and exercise. It is a way of life. So why should we not change our bad habits?



The photo shows an athletic young woman and a large amount of fruit and vegetables.

A healthy lifestyle is the way to better relationships, less risk of diseases and a better quality of life. Of course, the ingredients of a healthy lifestyle are a healthy weight, a balanced diet, positive thinking, regular exercise and good relationships. Whatever you do, regular exercise and physical activity is the way to health and wellbeing. Exercise burns fat, builds muscles, lowers cholesterol, relieves stress and anxiety and allows us to sleep soundly. A healthy lifestyle will not only leave you looking and feeling better, but you will start to be a better version of yourself.

I am convinced that we are responsible for our own wellbeing, because whether people live long and happy lives very much depends on how they live and how they treat their body and mind.

Kaja Jakubczyk, Ila



In the picture we can see Venice and 3 men floating in gondolas.

Justice

'The Merchant of Venice' is a play written by William Shakespeare in the late 16th century. The play is set in Venice and tells the story of a merchant named Antonio who borrows money from a Jewish usurer named Shylock to help his friend Bassanio marry a wealthy heiress named Portia. However, when Antonio is unable to repay the loan, Shylock demands a pound of his flesh as payment, leading to a dramatic courtroom scene in which Portia, disguised as a lawyer, saves Antonio's life. She uses her knowledge of the law to argue that Shylock's claim is invalid.

One of the key themes of the play is the nature of mercy and justice, and the conflict between different religious and cultural groups in Renaissance Europe. Shylock, who is portrayed as a cruel and vengeful character, is often seen as a representation of the anti-Semitic attitudes prevalent at the time, while Portia's role as a female lawyer challenges traditional gender roles.

The play has been adapted many times for stage and screen and remains one of Shakespeare's most popular works. Its enduring appeal stems from its exploration of universal themes such as justice, mercy, love and prejudice, as well as its vivid characters and memorable language. Overall, 'The Merchant of Venice' is a complex and thought-provoking work that continues to captivate audiences with its timeless themes and enduring relevance to contemporary society.

- Maciej Olejarczyk, Jakub Janacz, Jakub Półrola IVd

Prison - not as bad as you think

Have you ever thought about the prison system in Iceland? Can you imagine that in Iceland criminals can live like normal people?

The prison system in Iceland looks not like that in Poland. Iceland has a maximum of five prisons in total, which are rather places with a mild regime. The prisons are small - each building houses fewer than 200 prisoners.

Interestingly, the places are not surrounded by walls or fences. Prisoners are required to wash cars or knead number plates. They also shear sheep or raise trout. They each have their own room and even limited Internet access. This is where the offenders eat breakfast, lunch and dinner with all the staff. They have a football or basketball court.

The strangest thing is that if the waiting list of prisoners is too long and there is no room for a person, they are not sent to a prison abroad. Therefore, they live like ordinary citizens and wait for a free prison cell.

In my opinion, this kind of prison system is so controversial. On the one hand, I think that prisoners all over the world should do community service and earn their living. They could live like a normal person and learn how to be an excellent citizen. On the other hand, I am concerned that prison needs to rehabilitate but not act like a hotel. Community work may not be enough.

Oliwia Gonera, Ila



In the picture I can see a prison in Iceland that is not surrounded by any wall.
Wiktor Warda, Patrycja Gąciarek, Marta Krakowiak, Ila

Life - reality or fiction?

Have you ever read Jane Austin's first and most noteworthy novel 'Sense and Sensibility'?

It is the story of two sisters, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood, who are coming to maturity. Following the death of their father, they are forced to leave the family estate and move with their mother and younger sister to a cottage in the Devonshire countryside.

The story describes their experiences of love, loss and a growing understanding of the world, themselves and each other, playing in particular on the internal conflicts between the qualities of reason and sensitivity that each sister shows.

Interestingly, the book 'Sense and Sensibility' was published in 1811 and this date ties directly into Jane Austin's life. At that time the author moved to a country cottage in Cowton Cottage. Can you see the reference? Jane decided to move away just like the characters in her book. It is telling that Jane Austin was inspired by her true story and rural environment to create a bestseller and that she clearly understands the emotions and essence of her characters.

It is worth mentioning that she captures every mannerism of the upper and lower classes and sees them as the opposite. This only shows her genius as a writer.

In conclusion, as much as we can, we have to agree that Jane Austin has used her real-life experiences to make her work worth spending every minute reading.



The picture shows Elinor and Marianne Dashwood wearing an old-fashioned dress and hat.

Tomasz Zawada, Bartosz Piotrowski, Rafał Łączny, IVd

The corrupting effect of uncontrolled ambition

Ambition has always been a desirable quality in our society. From ancient rulers to politicians and wealthy entrepreneurs, we can observe one common feature - they always strive to achieve more. However, it often escapes our attention that their success often comes at a price - the loss of conscience. This dark side of ambition is the main theme of one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, 'Macbeth'.

The character of the tragedy is the royal Scottish thane, the king's loyal servant. We meet him when he returns from a battle, along with his companion Banquo. They come across three witches who foretell their fate. Macbeth learns that he will become the thane of Cawdor and future king. When the first prophecy comes true, Lady Macbeth decides to encourage him to take matters into his own hands - to murder the current king so they can rise to power. At first Macbeth is sceptical of her idea, but she presses him to take action. We see that at this point their cruel ambitions have been awakened. When the right occasion arises, the couple goes ahead with the plan. Thus begins their downward journey into the abyss of crime.

We can tell that Macbeth's tale is the story of a man who, influenced by his innermost dark desires, descends into madness. It is a warning to us all - we should never let our ambition blind our conscience and lead us down the path of darkness.



The picture depicts Lady Macbeth dressed in a beautiful long turquoise gown. She is sitting on a brown stylish sofa in an elegant drawing room.

Health and fitness in the eyes of teenagers

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of fitness and bodybuilding?

Probably the big guys who have been lifting weights all their lives and using steroids to be the best versions of themselves. What if I told you that a recent study showed that lots of teenagers started out their way into bodybuilding? Let's delve more deeply into this topic.

According to researchers from around the world, young people want to start in the gym for several reasons. The most interesting of these, among others, is the influence of celebrities on teenagers. Take, for example, the well-known Aziz 'Zyzz' Shavershian, who had one of the biggest influences on the fitness industry and was a huge authority for teenagers.

Clearly what was interesting about this man was the way he conducted himself. His masculinity and confidence were extolled by young men who wanted to be like him. The way he encouraged his fans to start lifting weights was very convincing. Sadly, he died on 7 September 2011 from an undiagnosed heart condition.

Some argue that the growing obsession with body image is dangerous. On the other hand, people like 'Zyzz', for example, often change people's lives for the better because they show teenagers that they can change how they look through training. In conclusion, it is difficult to judge the morality of this type of action. What do you think about it?

Wiktor Warda, Ila



In the picture I can see a man exercising in front of a mirror at the gym.

My Hobby

I like drawing and hiking in my free time and I'm getting better at cooking.

I adore meeting my friends, listening to music, looking out of the window, it is very relaxing and unusual. My favorite music is pop. I don't like sports. Sport is boring. It's not my cup of tea. I prefer socialising and nature. I'm keen on taking photos of animals and plants. It is my true hobby.

- By Julia Klisowska I C

This is Panda. The photo is from the zoo.



Red Panda is so cute.



Global Netflix hit!

By Ola Stanikowska kl.IV

In 2022 Netflix offered us the series 'Wednesday', which is directed by the famous Tim Burton. It is very popular and it is watched by people all over the world.

The gruesomely smart and sarcastic Wednesday Addams (Jenna Ortega) investigates a series of homicides. She makes new friends and enemies at Nevermore Academy. Our character tries to control her newfound psychic powers, stop the murderous forces that terrorize the area and solve a supernatural mystery which her parents became a part of 25 years ago. With each episode, Wednesday gets closer to solving the mystery. We can also see how Wednesday finds herself in relations with other students of the academy. The series gives us a lot of emotions and moments of tension.

The dance of the main character from the series became viral on the Tik Tok app.

Many fans around the world are waiting for the premiere of the second season and I can't wait, either. I encourage you all to watch this series and I am sure you will love it.



The photo shows the main character of Wednesday - a young girl with black hair tied into two braids.
She is holding an umbrella.

Travis Pastrana's Gymkhana 2022

When most people interested in cars hear about gymkhana they connect it with an drifting event or Ken Block, who popularised it. But currently someone different took over the baton from Block.

This person is Travis Pastrana, an American rally and motorbike driver who has driven in Subaru Rally Team and is Ken's friend. In year 2020 he came up with his first Gymkhana video in which he drove a Subaru Impreza in Annapolis. It was cool, but I'm going to focus on his newest video – Gymkhana 2022. This time it took place in Florida and was stylised in holiday mood. The chosen car was 80s' Subaru GL Wagon which was changed quite a bit. Its equipment consists of 2,3 litre engine, which can produce 862 horse powers. Additionally, it contains active aerodynamics and body made from carbon fiber. The car also has a livery which shows Hoonigan sponsors and colors of the USA flag. All these things combined in one vehicle make a huge impression and it even increases when you see this beast in action. Travis has made many nice jumps and drifts driving in it and different types of vehicles along Florida streets. I highly recommend watching this video. You can do it by visiting official Hoonigan YouTube channel or just search it on the Internet. It's fantastic and worth-seeing!

By: Dominik Mierzwa III E



SERIES RECOMMENDATION

If you are looking for an interesting series that deals with not very popular topics, you should watch "Open your eyes" – a Polish Netflix production directed by Anna Jadowska and Adrian Panek from 2021. This six-episode psychological drama/thriller with elements of science fiction tells the story of a teenage girl who has lost her memory in an accident that she doesn't remember. A seventeen-year-old, played by Maria Wawreniuk, suffering from amnesia, stays at the "Second Chance" Centre where she participates in therapy sessions and meets friends with similar problems. She searches for the truth about herself every day and tries to find herself. Will she be able to find out who she is? Or will she become someone else? The series is very interesting and engaging. The characters are expressive and their personalities are well written. It touches on the issue of searching for one's own identity and presents this problem from the perspective of young people struggling with memory loss uncertainties. The main character, unsure even of her own name, wrestles with everyday life that she does not understand. The plot is thoughtful and surprising. It forces you to think. What is worth noting is the fact that teenagers are shown in an authentic way; their conversations are natural, just like what you hear in real life. The actors are well chosen and they do their best. Everything is complemented by a soundtrack that fits the mood of the series. I definitely recommend this production. I believe that it arouses emotions and interest of the viewer. It is not like every series. I like the editing, both the issues and the way of presenting them seem to be professional. It is also a chance for young actors who have had a good start in their adventure with cinema.



The poster in shades of green and blue shows the profile of a short-haired teenage girl. On her face there is an image of an open door with a silhouette standing in it against the background of a fire.

Secrets of London



The picture depicts 19th-century London that is dirty, crowded and polluted.

Have you ever thought about 19th century London? Many English-language authors depicted the city in their works. They often showed the real side of London - ugly, dirty and dark. For instance, Charles Dickens set his novel 'Great Expectations' in London.

London is, on the one hand, the fulfilment of the 'great expectations' of Pip, the main character, as it is there that he sets his sights on being a gentleman. Pip ends up in London, where he receives a good education and leads an extremely prosperous life. This city has given him the opportunity to become someone that Estella - his great love - would want him to be.

On the other hand, this is a city where Pip faces obstacles in his life, as his illusions, including his great expectations have crumbled into dust. When Pip arrived in London, he was surprised to find it rather ugly, with narrow dirty streets and people crowded into tiny houses. He was horrified by its enormous size and shocked by the filth everywhere. He experienced an unhappy love for Estella, who wanted to marry the richest bachelor. He also fell into huge debts, all because he lived an overly luxurious lifestyle in London.

In our view, London is a place that attracts with its appeal. Despite the city's downsides, Pip was able to find his place there, even if there were obstacles. In 'Great Expectations', the author creates a picture of London that captures the reader's attention.

- Aleksandra Tyczyńska, Oliwia Gonera, Oliwia Paško, Ila