



The Young HUMAN-ists

PROJECT PROPOSAL

AN INTERNATIONAL
LITERARY CONTEST

Content:

Mission

Key Competencies

Description

Prizes

Communication Channels

Team



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the International Literary Contest The Young HUMAN-ists is to develop creative talent among young people while simultaneously strengthening humanist and democratic values.

This contest is a key initiative for the Foundation, in many ways, symbolising Arnošt Lustig's remarkable literary legacy and captivating life story.

The Foundation also wishes to inspire young people to learn to love to read and embed it as a life-long habit.

The Foundation has been established as an artistic-educational institution, with the objective of cultivating humanism and justice around the world

In Lustig's own words: "Social ailments such as racism, nationalism and fanaticism should not be underestimated. The danger has increased. I fear for my children."

Key competencies of the contest

CREATIVITY

CRITICAL THINKING

COMMUNICATION

COLLABORATION

First and foremost, this literary contest focuses on creativity. In addition, in cooperation with the teachers, we will also promote the other three competencies of the “4Cs” which are also regarded as essential for young people to be able to navigate effectively in a complex world characterized among others, by constant change, fake news, and increasing influence of artificial intelligence.

The Foundation works with Arnošt Lustig’s legacy, applying it on three levels:

HIS LIFE STORY - to teach modern history

HIS HUMANISM – to teach civic education

HIS ART – literature and film

TERM, PARTICIPANTS

In the 2nd half of the school year 2021/2022, the Arnošt Lustig Foundation announces the pilot year of the international contest: Young HUMAN-ists.

The contest will take place in three key types of educational setting:

- 1) Czech - Bohumil Hrabal Primary School, Antonínská Primary School Brno
- 2) German - Thüringer Gemeinschaftsschule Carl Zeiss (Weimar), Ostschule (Gera)
- 3) Czech schools abroad - selected students of the Czech School without Borders in Brussels and The European Gymnasium

AGE, TOPIC

The contest is open to students aged 14-15 and seeks contributions in the literary genres of prose, poetry and journalism on the theme of "friendship" - a key value of ALF. In the future, a different theme that personifies our values will be chosen.

WORKSHOP

Prior to the contest, a workshop for teachers will be held to introduce them to the Foundation's methodology and all necessary learning materials. The workshop will take place in Prague for schools from the Czech Republic and Germany. If the situation does not allow a personal meeting, the workshop will be online. Through the workshop, the mentors will receive instructions on how to work with students during the contest. Last but not least, they will receive materials that will enable them to present a selected short story by Arnošt Lustig, as well as the values he personified, in the context of their literature or civics lessons. The lecturer will work with texts that touch on friendship - The Second Round, Confessions, and the short film Sousto (directed by Jan Němec).

JURY

The jury that will determine the first three best texts will be composed of a professional writer (poet, novelist, journalist) and a selected student jury (from the high school in Remembrance of the Nation). As full members of this jury, the representatives will present a (student) selection of the best texts to the professional jury. The winners of *Czech schools without borders* will be announced in parallel. The jury will of course also be for the German part of the contest, following the same principle as for the Czech schools.

ANALYSIS

At the end of the contest and its evaluation, there will be a focus group with live graphic recording for students and a workshop for teachers. The aim will be to analyse the pilot year, adjust the parameters if necessary, and determine the overall impact of the contest Young HUMAN-ists. The findings will be published on the website and in the Foundation's annual report.



PRIZES



Exchange stay with a competitor/winner from abroad
Study stay in Kutná Hora - GASK Gallery
Arnošt Lustig's book
Interviews and media presentation of the winning work



Study stay in Kutná Hora - GASK Museum
Free entry to the Svět knihy - literary festival
The Book of Arnošt Lustig



Study stay in Kutná Hora - GASK Museum
Arnošt Lustig's book

The Arnošt Lustig Foundation strongly condemns the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian army and expresses its solidarity and support to the invaded state. The Fund has therefore decided to invite pupils from Ukraine aged 14 to 15 to participate in the competition and to expand the Young HUMAN-ists project to include a section called War and Peace.

On 10 June 2022, NFAL and its partner organisations will organise a day-long workshop at the Popelka Art School in Prague 5, with the aim of creating a work of art on the competition theme of friendship under expert guidance.

The workshop will be led by lecturers who have extensive experience in artphilately, which is an experiential, reflective and creative approach to education and upbringing that draws on visual culture or other expressive cultural expressions.

Students will have the opportunity to respond to the winning texts, which will be translated into Ukrainian, or to comment on the topic of their choice. The creations will be displayed at the Young HUMAN-ists ceremony on 17 June and each participant of the workshop will receive a charitable donation on that day to help them live and study fully in the Czech Republic.

THE TEAM



Chief of the project: Eva Lustigová

Project manager: Veronika Smyslová

German Schools Coordinator: Eugenie Truetzschler

Lecturers, workshops: Andrea Wendlíková, Zdenka Švadlenková

Focus group facilitator: Jana Čemusová

Graphic recording of focus groups: Klára Keharová

Intern: Anna Adamírová

Young HUMAN-ists

Additional materials

Do young people actually know what humanism is?

The ALF conducted a survey among teenage students to find out what they know about humanism. The survey was conducted among 74 fourteen-fifteen year old students from Brno.

The question: "Who is a humanist?" We received a range of different answers. Almost half of the respondents agreed that a humanist is a person who is human towards other people, loves them and helps them. For others, a humanist is a "fighter" against violence. However, it turned out that a significant number of students did not know who a humanist is.

"What is characteristic of a humanist?" Respondents are mostly of the opinion that a humanist fights against racism, discrimination and violence. They also believe that he or she is human-oriented and helpful.

For the final question, whether the respondents consider themselves humanists, almost half of the respondents said no. However, some added that they answered in the negative because they do not know what being a humanist entails. The rest consider themselves humanists, and a few do not know what to say. From the above results, it is evident that the majority of the youth interviewed are not sufficiently informed about humanists and humanism.

For this reason, the ALF has decided to organize a literary contest called Young HUMAN-ists, which will directly address the topic of humanism. The contest is intended to spread awareness of humanism (not only) among youth through the development of creative writing, critical thinking and democratic decision-making (in, for example, students acting as contest judges).