



Famous Polish People

Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących im. Jana Nowaka Jeziorańskiego STO

Warszawa - Poland

Adam Mickiewicz (1798 – 1855)

Mickiewicz, together with two other Polish poets of this time: Juliusz Słowacki and Zygmunt Krasiński, played the role of a national bard and spiritual leader. He was the principal poet of Polish Romanticism. His love lyrics, succinct and charged with emotion and meaning, raised the image of woman to ideal heights previously unknown in Polish poetry. With his exalted patriotism, mystical feeling, and passionate appreciation of the positive aspects of Polish life, he came to epitomize the Polish spirit for succeeding generations of his nation's writers.



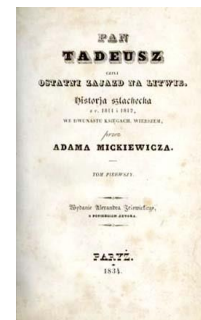
„Master Thaddeus” il. Oskar Świerad

Najwybitniejszy polski twórca romantyczny, poeta, publicysta, działacz polityczny, wizjoner. Wieszcz polski.

“Pan Tadeusz” (“Master Thaddeus”) by Adam Mickiewicz (1834) –

the masterpiece, the great poetic epic which describes the life of the Polish gentry in the early 19th century through a fictional account of the feud between two families of Polish nobles. The poem conveys perfectly the ethos of an archaic society in which the ideals of chivalry are still alive

and shows the effect of the Napoleonic myth on honest and simple minds, to whom the French emperor is an instrument of Providence. In the poems there are a lot of love for Poland so his poetry has meant a great deal to the next generations reading it.



Poland's great genius in the 19th century, one of the supreme poets of the world.

It is worth saying that Poland has had a great literature since the loss of the independence. That literature has kept alive the soul of the nation. Polish anthem contains words: "Poland is not yet lost as long as we live...."

Henryk Sienkiewicz 1846 - 1916

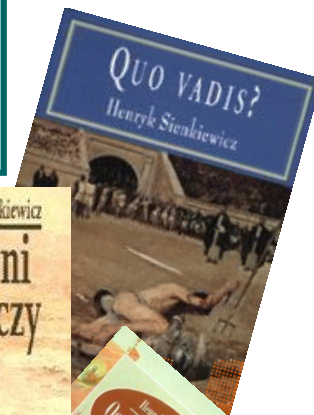
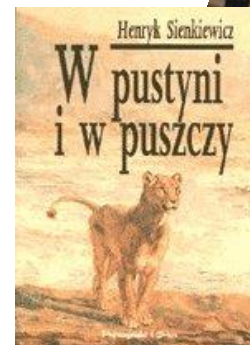


He has been the most popular novelist for over one hundred years in Poland, and is the most popular Polish author in the world. His works are still printed in large numbers, and „Quo vadis” was translated into 40 languages. Most of his novels were also „translated” into scripts and filmed.

Postać wybitnie utalentowana. Człowiek, który na kartki papieru przelał historię Polski i innych państw. W utworach pięknie ukazuje miłość i przyjaźń. Potrafi wzruszyć, rozbawić, zbulwersować. Pisarz także w życiu osobistym wykazywał się inteligencją i wrażliwością. Potwierdza tezę, że podróże kształcą. To dzięki nim jego twórczość tak dokładnie obrazuje wydarzenia.

Ten pisarz pozytywistyczny oczarował mnie swoją Trylogią. Choć wielu uczniów uważa ją za lekturę trudną i nudną, czytam ją z przyjemnością po raz trzeci.

O tym laureacie Nagrody Nobla mogłabym pisać wiele, mam nadzieję, że te kilka zdań wystarczy, by zachęcić wszystkich do poznania jego wspaniałych utworów.



Agnieszka Czyżak 3gA



„Krzyżacy” – „The Knights of the Cross” il. Oskar Świerad 3gC

A greatly talented writer who, on the pages of his books, presented the history of Poland and other countries. In his works, he showed love and friendship in a beautiful way. He moved, amused and shocked his readers. In his personal life he also showed deep intelligence and sensitivity. His life is an example of how travel broadens the mind. His journeys enabled him to describe different events in great detail. Sienkiewicz, who was a positivist writer, enchanted me with his “Trilogy”. Though many students regard this book to be difficult and boring, I am just reading it for the third time now with great pleasure.

I could write much more about this Nobel Prize winner, yet I hope these several sentences of recommendation will do to encourage everybody to read Sienkiewicz’s wonderful works.

Sienkiewicz said that his novels had been written to raise the Polish spirit of the nation and give Polish people hopes for the future.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie



M. Curie

Maria Skłodowska-Curie was born in 1867 in Warsaw. She came from a Polish noble family. She died in 1934 in France where she spent most of her life. In 1891 she passed exams for chemistry and physics faculty at the Sorbonne being the first woman who did it. Then she got bachelor's degree in Physics and Mathematics. Skłodowska discovered Polon, more radioactive Radium and found out that radioactivity exists because of disintegration of atom nucleus. In 1903 Marie Skłodowska-Curie got (with her husband) her first Nobel Prize in physics. Some time later she became the first woman-professor of The Sorbona University. In 1911 Skłodowska got her second Nobel Prize, this time for liberating Radium and for discovering new elements. No other woman has received two Noble Prizes, Marie was the first one who did it.



Adam Lewandowski 3gC Filip Kotadziński 3gA



Wisława Szymborska

Urodzona w 1923 r. w Bninie koło Poznania – polska poetka, eseistka i krytyk literacki, a także tłumaczka literatury francuskiej, laureatka Nagrody Nobla w dziedzinie literatury za rok 1996. Jej utwory cieszą się dużym powodzeniem w kraju i za granicą.

Born in Bnin (near Poznan) in 1923, she has been connected throughout her life with Cracow, where she studied and still lives and works. A poet and essayist, Wisława Szymborska won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1996. She is known throughout the world thanks to translations published in English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Czech, Slovak, Swedish, Bulgarian, Albanian and Chinese.

Allegro ma non troppo

Jesteś piękne - mówię życiu -
bujniej już nie można było,
bardziej żabio i słowiczo,
bardziej mówczo i nasiennie.

Staram się mu przypodobać,
przypochlebić, patrzeć w oczy.
Zawsze pierwsza mu się
kłaniam
z pokornym wyrazem twarzy.

Zabiegam mu drogę z lewej,
zabiegam mu drogę z prawej,
i unoszę się w zachwycie,
i upadam od podziwu.

Jaki polny jest ten konik,
jaka leśna ta jagoda -
nigdy bym nie uwierzyła,
gdybym się nie urodziła!

Nie znajduję - mówię życiu -
z czym mogłabym cię porównać.
Nikt nie zrobił drugiej szyszki
ani lepszej ani gorszej.

Chwałę hojność, pomysłowość,
zamaszystość i dokładność,
i co jeszcze - i co dalej -
czarodziejstwo, czarnoksiężstwo.

Byle tylko nie urazić,
nie rozgniewać, nie rozpętać.
Od dobrych stu tysięcy
nadskakują uśmiechnięta.

Szarpię życie za brzeg listka:
przystanęło? dosłyszało?
Czy na chwilę, choć raz jeden,
dokąd idzie - zapomniało?

ALLEGRO MA NON TROPPO

Life, you're beautiful (I say)
you just couldn't get more fecund,
more befrogged or nightingaily,
more anthillful or sproutspouting.

I'm trying to court life's favor,
to get into its good graces,
to anticipate its whims.
I'm always the first to bow,

always there where it can see me
with my humble, reverent face,
soaring on the wings of rapture,
falling under waves of wonder.

Oh how grassy is this hopper,
how this berry ripely rasps.
I would never have conceived it
if I weren't conceived myself!

Life (I say) I've no idea
what I could compare you to.
No one else can make a pine cone
and then make the pine cone's clone.

I praise your inventiveness,
bounty, sweep, exactitude,
sense of order – gifts that border
on witchcraft and wizardry.

I just don't want to upset you,
tease or anger, vex or rile.
For millennia, I've been trying
to appease you with my smile.

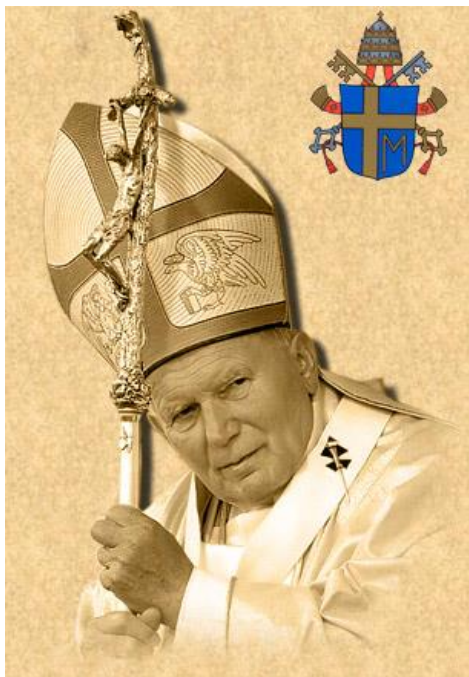
I tug at life by its leaf hem:
will it stop for me, just once,
momentarily forgetting
to what end it runs and runs?

*Translated by Stanisław Baranczak
and Clare Cavanagh*

Dominika Matusiak 6B

Ola Florek 3Ga

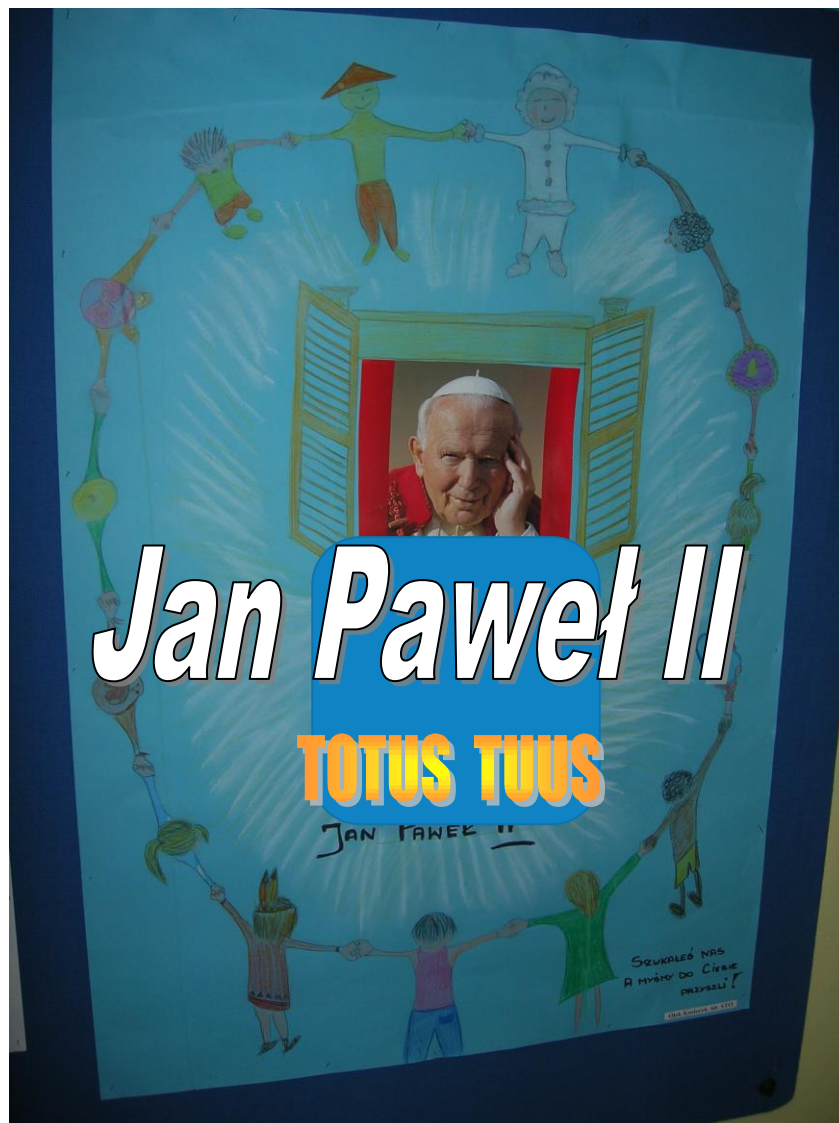
Szymborska represents a puzzling phenomenon: she electrifies her readers despite being modest, introverted, discreet and hushed. Szymborska writes sparingly; she is reckoned to have written no more than 250 poems. Perhaps this accounts for the fact that almost every one is a masterpiece. At least since the mid-1950s, Szymborska has held a place among the very finest Polish and European poets.



Karol Wojtyła (1920-2005)

Pope from 1978 to 2005

The pontificate of John Paul II was characterised by an openness to dialogue with the world and active spiritual work. He was the first in the history of the Church to hold prayer meetings with all religions. He opened up dialogue with the Jews.



Olek Kosiorek

The important message of the pontificate of John Paul II were: the new evangelism, respect for human rights and the right to work, struggle for peace, opposition to totalitarianism.

He was on more than 200 foreign trips, several times to Poland.

