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***Self-Reflective Methods in the Study of
Target Language Literary Texts***

***Célnyelvi irodalmi szövegek vizsgálata
önreflektív módszerekkel.***

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1 Introduction

Self-reflection is a critical process for understanding how external stimuli, such as literature, shape personal beliefs, values, and perspectives. In this essay, we analyse our reflective responses to four novels, *The Story of the Siren* by E. M. Foster, *Feuille D'Album* by Katherine Mansfield, *The Silence* by Murray Bill and *The Badness Within Him* by Susan Hill.

Within the realm of literature, self-reflection serves as a bridge between the reader and the text, allowing for a deeper understanding of themes, characters, and ideas. Through this reflective process, we aimed to illustrate the role literature plays in shaping self-awareness and fostering self-alteration. We were also interested how reading these short stories would influence our approach to literature and reading. For purpose this we examined specialised literature that explained the ways and means of self-reflection. There were many different types of self-reflection we found, such as “self-reflection which embraces a problem or a solution-focused approach where learners constructively reflect on how best to reach their goals, another which utilises a self-focused approach where learners attempt to understand, contain or dissipate their negative emotional, cognitive and behavioural reactions. There is one which questions one's own assumptions, presuppositions and expectations. The one which helps with the better understanding of the needs of others. Another is organized around one or more questions, facilitating evaluation or exploration or letting thoughts flow without restriction, permitting ideas and connections to randomly surface.” (Mextesol Journal, 2020) We also explored different methods about how it can be undertaken. Self-reflection can be undertaken by using reflective questions and prompting learners to ask themselves and to answer themselves. For example, "Does it have a deeper meaning? How does this affect my life? It can be also facilitated through written activity like journaling, mind mapping, reflective dialogues, theoretical frameworks, artistic expression, comparative analysis, retrospective reflection, letter writing and structured self-assessments. (The Research Centre for Teaching, Learning and Curriculum (TLC), 2021)

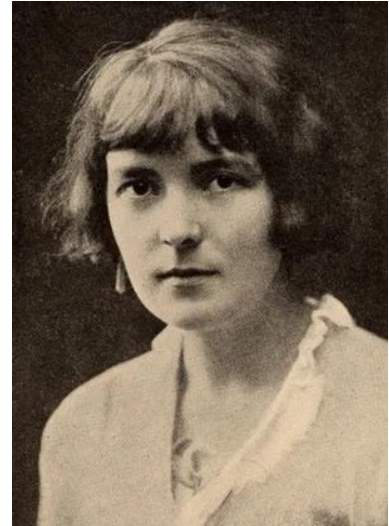
From these we chose journaling, reflective questioning and used Graham Gibbs' Reflective Cycle. With the help of our teacher, we both made a reading journal of the stories in which we recorded our feelings, emotions and thoughts about them. After that, we shared our thoughts and tried to embrace them with help of what we learned of self-reflection. In this thesis we will share our experiences and the result of how they influenced our approach to literature and reading. We reported on the background of the authors and their works, briefly introduced the stories and their meanings. We described our analysis using Graham Gibbs' Reflective Cycle

and the work we did based on reflective questions. Finally, we discussed how these works influenced our attitude towards literature.

2 The writers and background of the short stories

2.1 Kathrine Mansfield and the background of *Feuille D'Album*

Katherine Mansfield (1888–1923) was a modernist writer from New Zealand, known for her short stories that explore human emotions, relationships, and the subtleties of daily life. Her writing often highlights mood, atmosphere, and the inner lives of characters rather than a plot-driven or dramatic narratives. Mansfield was part of the early 20th-century modernist literary movement, which focused on experimenting with form, introspection, and fragmented narratives. She used these



Picture 1: Katherine Mansfield

Britannica

experimental technics, such as the stream of consciousness, interior monologue, poetic impressionism, and multiple perspectives in her writing as well. Her works often reflect the psychological complexities of ordinary people. *Feuille D'Album* appeared in her collection *Bliss and Other Stories*, it is a try of modernist short fiction that criticizes society and explores the inner lives of its characters.

Written during the aftermath of World War I, Mansfield's stories often explore themes of isolation and emotional fragility, which were major topics in the modernist era and connects with themes of war. It was first published in 1917. (French Culture, 2023)

Paris in 1917 was a city deeply impacted by World War I, even though it was behind the front lines. The war influenced nearly every aspect of life, from social conditions to cultural developments. The city faced challenges such as food rationing, air raids, and long-range artillery bombardments, including the infamous "Paris Gun," which caused significant destruction and casualties. (Discover Walks, 2015)

Culturally, Paris in 1917 was still a key center for art and creativity. The city was home to avant-garde artists associated with the "School of Paris," which included both local and international figures. While the war disrupted artistic production to some extent, it also inspired works reflecting on themes of loss, resilience, and human suffering. Despite these challenges, Parisian life persisted, with efforts to sustain morale through cultural activities and innovation.

2.2 Susan Hill and the background of *The Badness Within Him*

Susan Hill (born 1942) is an English author known for her works of fiction, particularly in the genres of gothic horror and psychological drama. Hill's writing often explores themes of grief, fear, isolation, and the darker aspects of human nature,



Picture 2: Susan Hill

The Guardian

which also appear in *The Badness Within Him*. She is popular for her thoughtful psychological insights, using atmosphere to create tension. (Hofer, 1993) She attended King's College London and was involved in literary circles that helped shape her career. By the time she took her A levels, she had already written her first novel, *The Enclosure*, which was published by Hutchinson in her first year at university. Her ability to explore complex emotional landscapes and human vulnerabilities is one of the reasons of the greatness of her work. Some of her works are: *The Pure in Heart*, *The Boy Who Taught the Beekeeper to Read*, *I'm the King of the Castle*, *In the Springtime of the Year*, *Mrs. de Winter*, *Strange Meeting*, *The Woman in Black*.

The short story can be connected to the eponymous Oedipus complex which comes from Sophocles' myth of Oedipus. The story follows Laius, the King of Thebes, is foretold in an oracle that his son will slay him. With the agreement of his wife, Jocasta, they bind his foot and get rid of the baby on Mount Cithaeron. The baby is saved by a shepherd who brings him up and gives him the name of Oedipus (=Swollen Foot). For about eighteen years later Oedipus is called bastard and decides to go to the oracle of Apollo to find out the truth. The oracle gives him a horrible prediction according to which he will kill his father and sleep with his mother. He fears this prediction, so he goes in the opposite direction heading towards Thebes. On his way there he meets an old man. He is very rude, and Oedipus refuses to obey him so in his rage he kills the man. That man was Laius. Reaching Thebes, he finds out that the city is terrorized by the Sphinx, a creature with the body of a lioness, the head of a woman and wings. The Sphinx destroys everybody who cannot answer her riddle. Oedipus is the one who succeeds and becomes the saviour of Thebes. The citizens offer him the throne of Laius and the hand of his widow, Jocasta. In the end the prediction comes true.

This myth revolves around fate, guilt, and self-realization. It suggests that children experience unconscious feelings of rivalry with their same-sex parent and a sense of emotional attachment to their opposite-sex parent. In *The Badness Within Him*, Col's relationship with his father can be viewed through this lens, as his wish for a storm, which coincides with his father's death, might be interpreted as an unconscious desire to eliminate the authority figure.

2.3 Edward Morgan Forster and the background of the Story of the Siren.

“One of the most gifted writers of his time, Edward Morgan Forster was an English novelist, short story writer, essayist, and librettist.” wrote Sarma V. (E.M. Forster Biography, 2024). He was born on the 1st of January in 1879 in Marylebone, London, United Kingdom. He died on the 7th of June in 1970 in Coventry, United Kingdom.

After his father's death when he was two years old, he grew up with her mother and great-aunt. His great-aunt passed away in 1887 and left him a big inheritance. He was six years old when he first took interest in literature.

Later he found that writing was his main interest in life, so he put a lot of effort to studying and becoming the writer he wanted to be. He enrolled to the Tonbridge School in Kent and later to King's College in Cambridge where he studied history, literature and philosophy. Here he joined the Cambridge Apostles. While attending the College he founded the Bloomsbury Group. Forster inherited money from his great-aunt so after his studied he travelled to Europe, Germany, India, Egypt.

Among his achievements should be mentioned that in 13 different years Forster was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature. Many of his successful stories were adopted to films. His writings are still important and meaningful because the topics he wrote about are applying to today's world as well. (E.M. Forster Biography, 2024)

His travels influenced his writings. He wrote '*Alexandria: A History and Guide*' after spending three years in Alexandria as a volunteer at the International Red Cross. He wrote numerous novels and short stories inspired by his visit to India as well. His last novel '*A Passage to India*'



Picture 3: E.M. Forster

Britannica

which was the story of the British colonial occupation in India. Instead of writing about the differences and conflict it was about the two nation's friendship. The novel was a great success.

His novels and short stories are focusing on class differences and hypocrisy in which social appearances and reality, conventions and individual desires collide. '*The Story of the Siren*' is one of his short stories which was also inspired by his travel to Sicily. His story makes the reader contemplate about their own beliefs and how they look at other people with different outlook on life. (E.M. Forster Biography, 2024)

The Siren is a key aspect of the story because the presumption whether it exists or not is the main question of the story. I have found a description of the creature in Homer's *The Odyssey*.

"Ulysses knew that he couldn't stop even his most stoic sailors from succumbing to the luring song of the sirens. As the ships sailed by, he ordered his sailors to fill their ears with wax as to not hear the seducing songs. Ulysses himself, however, wanted to hear the sirens' beautiful voices so he tied himself to the ships mast so that he couldn't escape. Roman writers also suggest that the sirens are daughters of Phorcys, the God of the Sea. They sang sad and sweet songs to lure in sailors, but always with a deadly result. It is here on the Amalfi Coast where the myth seems to become reality." says Valeria Carrano. (Froster, 2011) In Forster's story the Siren is not a creature which lures people to their death however it takes away their happiness their love for life. They do not want to do anything with their lives anymore they do not care about anyone they do not fall in love and only see the bad side of life. Therefore if we consider all there then in this short story the Siren also "kills" the victims symbolically by taking away their lives in every other meaning.

The story is set in Sicily one of the locations is, The Blue Grotto which is a beautiful, magical place perfectly fit to be the location of the story and as described as follows:

"Inhabited by mermaids, infested with ghosts and demons. Cursed placed rediscovered after many years. The intense blue and the brilliance of the water hides monsters and supernatural creatures." Another version of the legend, spread for years, wants the Grotto to be the shelter of Nereids, half-fish and half-human nymphs. These creatures rose to the surface only to help sailors who lost their way." says the editor. (Mermaids and nymphs, 2019) This special place fits *the Story of the Siren* story's magical feeling. The Grotto was also the place in the book where the fisherman earned his money. The tourists tossed coins to the water for him to dive for the coins but the Sicilian did not take pleasure in diving because it was humiliating to dive

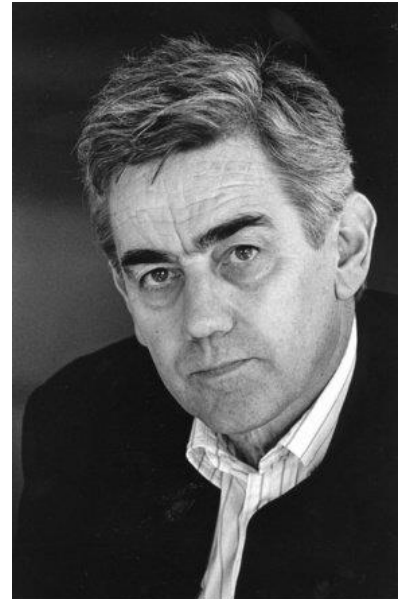
for money. He lost his own boat after his brother saw the siren but started to work with another fisherman and they took tourists to the Grotto because it was a beautiful and special place. The Grotto has been popular tourist site ever since. Many people visit the place to see something magical to experience natural beauty.

2.4 Murray Bail and the background of *The Silence*.

Murray Bail is an Australian writer of novels, non-fiction and short stories who was born on the 22nd of September in 1941 in Adelaide South Australia. He attended Norwood Technical Highschool in Adelaide. (Bail, 2024)

He moved to India in 1968 and lived there until 1970. Then he lived in England and Europe from 1970 to 1974 where he was writing for “Transatlantic Review and the Times Literary Supplement”. (Bail, 2013) In England he published his first collection of short stories. He moved back to Australia and became a member of the Council of the Australian National Gallery in Canberra from 1976 to 1981. Later he published short stories, novels, criticism and travel writing. (Clancy, n.d.)

He won the Miles Franklin Award with his novel the *Eucalyptus*. The Alcheron.com’s editor Tripti Joshi mentions that Laurie Clancy says that “Bail is one of the chief innovators of Australian short story writing” and that “the stories display the strange mixture of surrealist fantasy and broad satire of Australian mores that characterizes all of Bail’s work.” (Bail, 2024)



Picture 4: Murray Bail

Other Press

Some of his famous novels are *Homesickness* which shows his vision of life’s complexity and tackles reality and imagination. *Holden’s Performance* which debates national identity and forces which shape someone’s character. *Eucalyptus* tackles knowledge and imagination. *The Pages* debate philosophy and psychology. (Bail, 2024) His short story, ‘*The Silence*’ is a good example of his style. It’s about a man who lives alone in the desert and gradually adopts a lifestyle characteristic to Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal people are one of Australia’s Indigenous groups. They came from Asia and found their home in Australia. They occupied the entire continent by 1788, and they fully adapted to their environment. This large population caused that there were more than 200 different Aboriginal languages. They were hunters and gatherers. After the European settlement they lost

the continent and their autonomy. The relationship between the Aboriginal people and the European people became problematic. Aboriginal people were forced to go to camps or pastoral and cattle stations and had to do hard labour. With the Europeans came the unknown diseases which killed a lot of people. In the 1920s reserves were established but many people were forced into fringe settlements. In the 1960s the frontier period ended. Nowadays they can live a normal life and in remote areas they can live like the Aboriginal people before the Settlement. (Tonkinson & Brendt, 2025)

3 A brief overview of the content of the short stories

3.1 Kathrine Mansfield: Feuille D'Album

The title is French for "album leaf," suggesting a delicate piece of art, akin to a small moment captured in time. It reflects the focus of the story is a simple, poetic episode in the life of its protagonist, giving it a sense of intimacy and transiency. The story follows Ian French, a reserved, solitary artist in Paris. He is very misunderstood by others and is known as somewhat awkward in his interactions with them, which is outlined in the beginning of the story using the background characters opinions, which the reader knows from the writer's narrative. Ian becomes obsessed with a young woman he sees across the street peeling an egg, idealizing her from afar as he thinks she is perfect for him both in age and social status. His shyness and inability to connect emotionally prevent him from pursuing her directly. He follows her everyday life, (literally) watching her, and has questionable fantasies about their future lives together. Although his most common fantasy is just meeting her in person. The story ends ambiguously, as Ian delivers a small, symbolic gift (an egg) to the woman, hinting at his vulnerability and longing for connection. But it also raises the question in the reader's mind, if this situation is reality or just another fantasy of Ian's?

Mansfield uses irony in her portrayal of Ian's romantic pursuit, which seems both endearing and deeply uncomfortable. His grand gestures, such as buying an egg and following the girl, appear out of place with the emotional weight he attaches to them. The ending, where he offers her the egg, is both strange and absurd, leaving the reader with an ambiguous emotional response. Mansfield uses concise and restrained language to focus on key moments of emotion or thought. This brevity allows her to imply complex ideas without over explaining. For instance, Ian's obsession with the girl is revealed through small, seemingly trivial actions, such as his fascination with her routines and the giving of the egg at the end of the story. This approach prompts readers to infer something rather than accept the given meaning.

Feuille D'Album invites readers to reflect on themes of human connection, emotional vulnerability, and the ways we perceive others versus the reality of relationships. Its delicate, introspective tone encourages readers to consider their own feelings of longing, isolation, or idealization in their lives.

3.2 Susan Hill: The Badness Within Him

Susan Hill's *The Badness Within Him* is an interesting short story exploring the psychological and emotional struggles of a boy named Col as he fights with feelings of guilt, and isolation.

The protagonist, Col, is a young boy caught in the transition between childhood and adulthood. His internal struggles are marked by a deep sense of guilt and self-loathing, exemplified in his belief that his father's death is a result of his own "badness." In the story Col is misbehaving with his family. He offends his mother and sister and is not interested in any joint activity with them. As he isolates himself; he climbs up a hill watching everyone from afar. That is when the reader can get the first glimpse of his internal conflict. This self-perception leads to a crisis of identity and a longing for change, which is fulfilled in a tragic way when a storm, which he unconsciously wishes for, leads to his father's death. After that the story concentrates more and more on his inner turmoil and badness which he sees in himself, because he thinks the mishap was his fault, and guilt starts to eat him up from inside. This event forces Col to confront the harsh realities of growing up, his changing relationship with his family, and the loss of his childhood innocence, which is what he perceives as bad.

The seaside setting, contrasts idyllic childhood memories with Col's darker, present-day experiences. This setting, with its symbolic use of weather and nature, reflects Col's state of mind, and the story employs a third-person narrative that allows readers to empathize with Col's confusion and struggle. The seaside and the family house, traditionally associated with freedom, leisure or family love, takes on a melancholic tone, emphasizing the emotional disconnection between Col and his family. The house itself becomes a symbol of stagnation and captivity, reflecting Col's frustration with his family and his longing for some kind of independence.

Hill's use of stream-of-consciousness techniques allows readers to delve deeply into Col's mind, exploring his fears, insecurities, and moral struggles. She merges inner thoughts with third-person narration, blurring the line between Col's subjective reality and the wider narrative, which makes his emotional state feel impactful. She employs symbolic elements, such as weather and physical spaces, to reflect Col's internal conflicts. The story connects with themes of adolescence, identity formation, and the burden of guilt, making it a rich text for psychological and literary analysis.

3.3 E.M. Forster: The Story of the Siren

The short story was published in 1920 and later in the collection of *The Eternal Moment* and *Other Stories* in 1928.

The story tackles two topics reality and faith. How these two coexist in our lives and how they can influence our lives, make us fear things, believe in miracles.



Picture 5: Blue Grotto Capri

Grotta Azzura

The story is set on the island of Capri in Sicily.

The narrator is an English man on vacation on the island. He and his family go on a boat trip with a local fisherman. The narrator's dissertation the 'Deist Controversy' - which is a dispute about belief in the existence of God - falls into the water by the grotto which proves to be a meaningful magical episode. The Sicilian fisherman dives into the water to get it back. After that he tells him the Story of the Siren. The Sicilian's brother dived into the water and saw the siren. After he surfaced, he became goalless. Nothing made him happy. One day he heard about the girl who also saw the siren. He met her and they wed. She became pregnant and feared that the child will be the anti-Christ, and someone killed her. We do not know who exactly, but it is suggested in the book that it was the priest who killed her. Her husband did not mourn her. He travelled the world to find another person who also saw the siren. The narrator realises that this Sicilian man really belongs to this place of wanders where only the fantastic would be tolerable and he stirs his interest. He also empathizes with the man who lost his brother and sister-in-law because of the people of Capri were too afraid of someone who was different from the others even though they did not hurt anyone (Forster, 1920).

Our everyday lives tend to be monotonous. When we see something special, magical we want to see that more. In this story the siren is this out of ordinary being which attracts and frightens at the same time.

The faith of the people of Capri is a mixture of Christian practice and pre-Christian beliefs that persist on the island. They appear to be Christians but they secretly keep their own ancient faith. We can see this when the people on the island are afraid of the fisherman's brother because of a siren which does not exist in the Christian religion. If we think about it there are a lot of myths and superstitions we have in our lives as well. We might live a Christian life, but we still grow up having different superstitions and believing in myths. We do not even notice these attitudes

most of the time as they belong to our cultural background, and they have been part of our everyday life. We grow up with them and we have to deal with them in the future.

3.4 Murray Bail: The Silence

The story is set in the Australian desert. The main character is Joe who lives alone in the desert. He is small-eyed, hawk-nosed like an aborigine, Arab or red Indian and a rabbit hunter. He has lived there for a year now completely alone but he got acclimatized to his living conditions, to the peace and quiet. He has got so used to it that gradually he has become



Picture 6: Australian desert

The Guardian

estranged from other people and noises even. The time is measured by fortnight and that is when Treloar comes and collects the rabbits. Treloar is a friendly man who likes to talk and is very loud. As time goes by Joe's attitude is changing towards Treloar. The first time he is waiting for him, the next he gets a little annoyed by him and the third time he is not looking forward to meet him anymore. In the story Joe gradually undergoes an inner transformation and begins to think and behave like an aboriginal person under the influence of time spent in the desert. From colonizer he becomes colonized by being assimilated by the desert. The silence that Joe is experiencing forces him to think and reflect on himself, to get to know himself better and pay attention only to himself. This story is perfect for practicing self-reflection because it encourages us to look between the lines and shows us that some things can have other meanings too, not just the obvious for example silence can be loud and uncomfortable and can make us look inside ourselves (Bail, 2015).

4 Analysis and evaluation of all the short stories

For our analysis, we used journaling. We kept a reading diary, but in addition our teacher introduced us, to Graham Gibbs' Reflective Cycle, developed in 1988. It provides a structured and systematic approach to reflection, guiding individuals through six stages: description, feelings, evaluation, analysis, conclusion, and action plan. This model encourages its uses not only to examine what happened during an experience but also to understand why it occurred, how it felt, and what can be done to improve or change future outcomes. Using Gibb's framework ensures that reflection moves beyond surface-level observations and fosters meaningful insights that can lead to practical changes. We filled this framework with our thoughts and used it to write this analysis and evaluation. It may not have had the outcome we expected, but I hope it is interesting for some who read this (Gibbs, 1988).

4.1 Analysis and evaluation of Feullie D'Album

Feelings

As a short description was already used in the essay, I will start with the second aspect of the self-reflection, which is my feelings about or during the reading of the short story. While reading this story I felt a mix of curiosity and unpleasantness. At first, I sympathized with Ian's situation, but as the story went on, and his obsession with the woman, whom he only saw from afar, and even though it's clearly not normal behaviour kept watching, became clear to me, he came off as some kind of stalker. If I were to approach the same perspective from the woman's point of view, it would be scary, that a man is watching her every move. Also, the ending situation (if real) would be quite creepy. In real life if a woman were in that position, she would be calling the police on that man. The ending left me unsettled and a little bit frustrated, not knowing what happened next. This might be controversial, as I was supposed to find a deeper meaning reading this story, which I also did, but I wanted to write my first opinion of it as well.

Evaluation

The story effectively portrays the inner life of a character who is both deeply isolated and yearning for connection, making his experience perhaps relatable. Although the perspective did not convince me I would still rate this story well, as it had an engaging narrative, and the characters' personality were also interesting. However, the ending left me with a sense of incompleteness, wondering how real the situation could be and, if so, what could be its continuation.

Analysis

Feuille D'Album made me reflect on the feeling of loneliness and the human need for connection. Ian's fixation symbolizes his desire to be in any kind of relationship, while showing his incompetence in communication. The egg and the girl's habit of peeling becomes a symbol for him, into which he projects all his romantic dreams. Mansfield's story shows how complicated human longing can be and our capability to find meaning in even the tiniest of details. (Thalacufiya, 2025) The story also raises questions about the boundaries between admiration and obsession, as Ian's actions, though seemingly innocent, have an undercurrent of desperation and isolation, which can seem quite creepy. Mansfield's portrayal of Ian's inner world highlights how loneliness can distort perceptions and lead to actions that are difficult to interpret as either purely benign or troubling. The end of the short story is left open, emphasizing that Ian's attempt to connect may just be another fantasy that may never become reality, that is good because it is thought-provoking for the reader and not just a generic ending to wrap up the story.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the story reinforced the idea, that loneliness can affect a person's behaviour of others. Also highlighting the fine line between healthy admiration and unhealthy obsession. The ending suggests that while connecting is sought it is not always achieved in a clear or satisfying way.

Action plan

As an action plan, I chose to promise myself to always seek natural and genuine connections with others and won't ever try to force them. I will think about my actions towards others in advance. For now, there is no loneliness in my life, I have many great people in it, and I intend to keep it that way.

4.2 Analysis and evaluation of The Badness Within Him

Feelings

I will begin by sharing my feelings about the short story. As I read through it, I experienced a range of emotions that deeply resonated with me. At times, I felt a sense of confusion while at other moments, I was overcome with heartbreak. These emotions were triggered by the intense self-isolation and self-loathing of the main character. The portrayal of his inner fight was

disturbing and heartbreaking. I also felt a sense of worry as the story progressed knowing that this struggle was leading him down a path of increasing despair.

Evaluation

The narrative's exploration of the concept of inherit evil is both thought-provoking and unsettling, encouraging readers to question the nature of morality and self-perception. However, the ending left me disappointed as there was no clear path to redemption for the protagonist. The conclusion, instead of offering a sense of closure, left them trapped in the spiralling consequences of their actions, unable to escape the crushing burden of their own conscience.

Analysis

Susan Hill's short story made me think about the ways in which guilt and fear can shape a person's identity and actions. The story suggests that this constant internal conflict, if left unresolved, can lead to profound psychological distress. It highlights the importance of self-acceptance, while it also raises questions about how society's moral expectations can make someone feel "not normal". (Mounic, 2014)

Conclusion

In conclusion, *The Badness Within Him* showed how an unresolved internal conflict can greatly influence a person's life. It underscores how important it is to face problems with ourselves and understanding our fears and guilt. The protagonist's journey serves as a lesson about dangers of unhampered self-hating and the need for compassion. It also reminded me the necessity of approaching these issues with empathy.

Action plan

For my action plan, I will strive to be more mindful of my both my own and others potential internal conflicts and the way I perceive myself. I will also try to confront feelings of guilt or hate head-on, as I hope to be better at managing any negative emotions.

4.3 Analysis and evaluation of The Story of the Siren

Feelings.

I will begin by sharing the feelings I have felt during reading this story. When I started to read the story and the dissertation fell into the water I was a bit confused because it should have been a sad scene and it was the narrator wanted it back and he was sad that he let it but as he described the book in the water, how it was beautifully flowing, it felt like a magical moment and I could not help but wonder how mesmerising it must have been. I was surprised when I read that one of the boatmen wanted to dive for it even without asking but felt angry when one of the girls belittled the boatman by calling him child of nature. As the narrator talked about the grotto it made me want to visit the place, it made me happy as it must be peaceful. I felt uneasiness when the narrator did not trust the Sicilian. I could sympathize with the narrator when he was contemplating about how good it is to leave behind reality and be in a magic world. I could understand the Sicilian's anger when the narrator did not take him seriously when he talked about the siren, he made him think he knew about it but he actually did not because everyone tried to banish the fantastic from their lives. I felt sad when he told the story of his brother, it must be hard to lose someone all of sudden and even though he survived the encounter he was not the same person anymore. Overall it was a sad story.

Evaluation.

I liked that the narrator realized that the boatman was in a difficult situation caused by others and he realised he should not judge others before he knows their story but I pitied the boatman because he was left with nothing. No family, no business. Completely alone.

Analysis.

Things went well I mean there was not conflict now with the two men conversing because the narrator was capable of being open minded listening to his story first, not judging without enough knowledge. Maybe first he was sceptical a little but he quickly changed his behaviour. On the other hand things did not go well, the boatman's life became a misery after his brother saw the siren and even more so it took a turn when the people of Capri heard the prophecy and started to fear his brother and his brother's wife. They were not open minded enough and accepting enough so they killed them.

Conclusion.

If people would have been more open this would not have been such a tragic story. It is so easy to hate or just disapprove of others when we only know one side of every story. They could

have accepted them as they were. Yes, they were different but they did not harm anyone and there was no guaranty that their child would have been dangerous.

Action plan.

If I get into a similar situation as this I will ask first so I can get to know them better and I will not judge and accept people how they are so they can live their own life in peace.

4.4 Analysis and evaluation of The Silence

Feelings.

At first it made me uncomfortable when Joe spoke about the sun and heat. He must have felt like it is suffocating him. When he first heard the truck I got excited because he was looking forward to this meeting with Treloar. He even spoke with him. When he was alone it made me feel like he was in peace. He was alone in silence no one there to bother him. He enjoyed the simplicity of life. The second time Joe was irritated when Treloar came. He did not look forward to it and it made me feel irritated. I was waiting with Joe when will Treloar finally be gone. The third time Treloar visited he was afraid that he had to talk so before Treloar arrived at his camp he left it and hid in the dunes. He was relieved when he finally departed and I also felt the same way because after that there was peace, silence and just Joe with his inner thoughts.

Evaluation.

For Joe being alone in the silence felt almost therapeutic. He did not have to converse with somebody he was just being with his inner thoughts. The story made me feel happy and peaceful when he was alone in silence.

Analysis.

Joe made sure he would not have to talk or meet anyone in the future which made him happy but at the same time he got isolated from the world, from everyone and that can be dangerous as well because he can go mad by being in absolute solitude for longer terms of times.

Conclusion.

Silence can be good for you, it makes you listen to yourself, helps with self-discovery. You can get to know yourself in longer period of silence. It can be also liberating because you trust yourself more. In silence we pay attention to our thoughts, discover how we think about certain things than we can decide if we like the way we are thinking or not. In our rushing, noisy world we rarely have peace and quiet when we do not do anything just think and listen to ourselves.

Sometimes it is important to sit down and think about where we are in life, are we satisfied what we are and if we want to change something. We only know these things when we quiet our minds and being alone.

Action plan.

I will try to respect others wishes and I will pay attention more to others body language or overall behaviour so I can tell when I am too much or not needed. I will try to be there for others if they need me but not when they do not. I will also try to pay attention if someone is isolated because that can cause problems as well.

5. Reflecting questioning in the exploration of the short stories.

Besides writing a reading journal and the analysis with the help of Graham Gibbs' Reflective Cycle we also used reflective questions. These questions were given by our teacher who highlighted the important aspects of the short stories with this method. This way we could reevaluate the short-stories but this time we focused only on the specific information targeted by these questions. This method was very interesting to work with because it made us rethink our observations of the stories. It made us reflect in another way. In my opinion it was easier to use the reflective questions to process the information encoded in the stories and helped us to understand the meaning. It was easier because we were not left alone to figure out the important content as in the case of Gibb's Reflective Cycle but we were guided into the right direction. The questions were about the characters their characteristics, what role they played in the stories. How they felt, what determining circumstances are in the stories which reveal us the meaning of the events of the story. This method helps us ask the right questions because when we read a story we might get lost in the unimportant details or maybe we skim over something which is key importance in the story. It helps us concentrate what matters. This method is easy to use and more timesaving than other methods. It also helps when you do not know how to start self-reflection or just to understand a story. Some contents are harder to understand than others and here becomes helpful the reflecting-questioning method where the questions are already given and you just have to find the answers for them in the source you are reading from. These questions make you think about things from the book you have not even thought about. For example, about someone's personality, what could he be doing, what are his motives, why does he do what he does then and there and not in another place or time. Is there a character development, if there is how it takes place, what happens. These questions can help to put together the story in a way that you can understand the meaning behind them. They help to navigate between information which can be overwhelming to go through without any guidance. This way it is easier to make progress and to see clearly in what the writer wanted to say, what his message was to his readers. These short stories were especially thought-provoking. They were published a long time ago in another century despite that the topics which they tackle are also apply to today's world. Without self-reflecting to these stories, we would not even realise how current these topics were in the present.

5.1 Reflecting questions about Katherine Manfield, Feuille D'album

1. What kind of person is the artist?

He is introverted and isolated and strange. People said about him that he is impossible, shy, silent, interesting and clever.

2. How does he relate to women in general? He goes out with them but cannot connect to them.

3. Why is the girl in the dark pinafore different?

He thinks that she is just like him the same age and leads a similar life. This girl intrigues him.

4. Why does not he let anyone enter his studio?

His studio was like a still life, and he did not want anyone to change that.

5. What do you think about the scene when he follows and meets the girl?

I think it is just another ideal scenario for him that he thinks about. I found it strange that he just follows her and does not address her until she arrives home.

6. What kind of paintings do you think the artist makes? Can you guess?

I think he makes portraits of the women he obsesses over.

5.2 Reflecting questions about Susan Hill, The Badness Within him

1. Who does he usually spend his summer holiday with?

He usually spends his summer holiday with his family.

2. How did Col feel about the summer holiday in the past and how does he feel now?

He had fun when he was little but hates it now and tries to ruin it for others as well by acting rude. He is bored there. He feels like everything is the same all the time and he needs something to change. He wanted to do something violent to end everything.

3. How does the change become visible? What does he do?

He does not go to the beach with his family or swimming. He stays in his room separated from the others. He does not want to interact with them and becomes isolated. He loses the zest for life.

4. How do the family members react to the change?

They want to spend time with him but only when he is playing by the rules. They always tell him what to do but nothing what he does is good enough for them. That is why he does not want to spend time with them, so they leave him alone when he does not want to cooperate.

5. When does his father join the family? Why?

His father joins the family at the beach at the weekend because he was working in London.

6. How does he relate to his father?

He does not know if he likes his father.

7. How can his father's death be interpreted symbolically?

The father is a symbol of guilt and authenticity.

8. What is the real topic of the story?

Guilt, acceptance, frustration.

5.3 Reflecting questions about E.M. Foster, The Story of the Siren

1. What is the topic of the short story?

The story has two topics reality and faith.

2. How does the loss of the dissertation relate to it?

The loss of the dissertation starts the whole story. The events begin with the dissertation falling into the water hereby it becomes magical. The way the writer describes how the narrator watches it flowing in the water makes the reader think we are transported to a magical world.

3. Think about the characters. Which characters are the important ones? Are all of them human?

In the story there are meaningful human characters for example the Narrator, the Sicilian, his brother Guiseppe and his brother's wife. There are also human side characters like the Narrator's family, the priest, the child who tells the Sicilian that his brother's wife is dead. There is one non-human main character in the story and that is the Siren. We do not meet her in the book we just hear about her, but she is one of the most important characters of the short story.

4. How does the narrator's attitude change towards the local man?

How does he relate to the Italian at the beginning and what makes him change his attitude towards him? First, he seem to be stereotypical Sicilian. After he tells his story of his life to the narrator, the narrator sympathizes with him and his family's misfortune.

5. When does the change take place?

After the Sicilian tells his story and the narrator believes him because he sees the Sicilian's pain and realises that someone would not feel this way if it were a fake story.

6. How do the characters feel about faith?

The Sicilian believes the myth, the narrator is sceptic about it but he believes him eventually. The Sicilian convinces him.

5.4 Reflecting questions about Murray Bail, The Silence

1. What does Joe Tapp look like? Who does he resemble?

He is a small-eyed, hawk-nosed person who looks like an overweight jockey with his grey bags tucked in his boots. He wears trousers, a white singlet, grey hat. He resembles an Aborigin, Arab- or Red Indian.

2. How does he change as he spends more and more time in the desert? Why?

He did not do anything during the day. He spent his time in peace and silence. In the beginning he answered Treloar questions and was somewhat talkative. Then the talking bothered him so he tried to avoid any discussion. He became more and more frustrated with him because the loud noises were caused by him. He felt this way because he got used to the silence in the desert and it made him feel at ease.

3. How does Joe feel about Treloar? Does his attitude change with time?

First he is waiting for him to come. He wants company. But later when Treloar visits him he becomes irritated and frustrated with him. At the end he even hides from him because he does not want his company.

4. What things disturb Joe in the desert?

At first he is disturbed by the hot weather and the sand. Later he becomes irritated by the loud noises caused by Treloar and because he has to talk to someone.

5. How does the desert appear in the story?

The writer describes the desert as dry, hot with sandhills and skeleton like trees.

6. How does Joe "measure" the passing of time?

The time is measured in the short story by fortnight which means 14 days. That is when Treloar visits Joe in the desert to collect the rabbits.

7.How does he feel about the silence of the Australian desert?

Joe likes the desert. He enjoys the solitude and the silence. He got used to it. In silence he can concentrate on himself. What he is feeling and he get to know himself.

6. The influence of the short stories on our attitude towards literature

6.1 Influence of Katherine Mansfield, Feuille D'album and Susan Hill, The Badness Within Him

These short stories influence on my perspective towards literature can be profound, as both authors explore deep psychological complexity and subtle emotional dynamics in their characters. Katherine Mansfield, with her peculiar style, often captures fleeting moments of human experience, revealing deep emotional truths in everyday life. Feuille D'Album is an excellent example of her ability to convey tension and disillusionment through subtle interactions and a careful examination of human nature. Reading Mansfield encouraged us to appreciate the beauty in storytelling, where even small details or unspoken emotions reveal layers of meaning.

On the other hand, Susan Hill's *The Badness Within Him* delves into the darker aspects of human nature and moral conflict. Hill's exploration of guilt, inner turmoil, and the psychological impact of wrongdoing inspired a greater awareness of how authors explore moral ambiguity. Her work influenced us to consider literature as a lens through which we can examine the complexities of human behaviour and the complications of personal choice.

Both authors, in their own ways, deepened our understanding of the complexities of the human psyche, and their stories encouraged us to engage with literature more reflectively, appreciating how small moments or internal struggles can shape characters and narratives.

6.2 Influence of E.M. Forster, The Story of the Siren and Murray Bail, The Silence

E.M. Forster's short story *The Story of the Siren* is a beautiful example of the coexistence of reality and faith. It encourages us to not be afraid of the unknown. The story shows us that faith and reality can exist at the same time but also separately. It makes us think whether we want to experience both. Both are beautiful and valuable. This story helped us to realise the beauty in both and appreciate the magic but also the reality.

Murray Bail's short story *The Silence* was one of my favourite story because it shows a simple picture of a man's life and so deep meanings are behind his story. It is a thought -provoking writing because as I read it I have realised how things as simple as silence can have a huge impact on someone's life, character. I realised that we do not spend enough time thinking, paying attention to ourselves. It is important that we surround ourselves in silence sometime.

These authors made us reflect on our lives with their brilliant writings and helped us to learn the importance of stopping and paying attention to others, to ourselves. These short stories

helped us to be better and more thoughtful. They made us to learn more about literature, history, geography. These stories were a good choice for us to learn about self-reflection. More specifically to learn how to use different reflective methods like writing a reading journal, to get to know what the Graham Gibbs' Reflective Cycle is and how it can help us to monitor our feelings and opinion about the story. We also used reflective questions with the help of our teacher which was a new way of processing information.

Overall, it was a instructive experience where we could not just get to know important literary text but also we could learn about different methods on how to reflect on ourselves so we can learn more about ourselves, the world and different perspectives. It made us stop for a second and read between the lines so we could understand the stories better and after we did it made us also stop and think about how this effect our lives. How can we learn from it. What we take home from it. We did learn a lot from this experience. Everyone takes something different with them from these stories. Everyone understands something else from it because we are not the same. We think differently and that affects how we see these stories. What we can understand from them. I am sure that everyone can see something in them. It is a good thing to reflect on our thoughts about them and talk about with someone who also did the same because it shines a whole new light on things.

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9 Appendix

Kocsis Virág, Kovács Kinga: Reading Journal

E.M. Foster: The Story of the Siren

1. Description: This is a short story about an English traveler visiting an Italian island. He goes out to the sea with a local fisherman's boat, who shows a tale about a siren. The siren's song is said to be so powerful that it changes the fate of the person hearing it. The siren's brother once heard the song, and since became a holy madman, abandoning his wife and community. The story raises the question of whether the siren truly exists or it's just a symbol of the fears of the human soul.

2. Feelings: While reading the story, I experienced mixed emotions. On one hand, I felt curiosity as the siren tale unfolded. Is it true, could it be? On the other hand, I made me uneasy because in reality, you can't explain a person's choices in life by saying the cause is a mythical creature. Might be a pessimistic approach but I couldn't feel sympathy for the man, because I don't believe in it. But I understood the deeper meaning regarding the isolation and loss of the unknown.

3. Evaluation: (didn't know the meaning of this and) I appreciated that the story approached the theme of human nature with a tale of a mythical creature, because it kept me engaged in it. However, I wanted to know if the siren was really real but the story had an open ending for the reader to conclude.

4. Analysis: The story made me think of the nature of human fear and desire. The siren's song is something we cannot fully control and understand. The tale of the siren suggests the power of fear can potentially destroy a person's life. Which raises the question: how well can we deal with our own fear?

5. Conclusion: My conclusion would be that the fears of the unknown are independent parts of human nature. However, we do not need to give into it, because exploring the unknown can be exciting as well, but we need to be ready for consequences.

6. Action plan: In the future, when faced with situations that evoke fear, I will try to approach these feelings more calmly. I will try to understand the unknown while resisting the influence of fear, and want let it control me.

7. Nature of human fear and desire, as well as the thin line between magic and reality.

8. The cues that on nature are always capital about the variable.

9. He gets engaged with the idea after sometime but later he just laughs it off. Desire to help others.

10. Fear of reality, control of imagination.

Valentin Naumov: The Siren

1. Description: This is a short story showing the life of a lone, introverted painter, Lou Fitch. Lou lives a solitary life in Paris, disconnected from people, and seen as odd by those around him. His attention is captivated by a young woman who he sees from his window every morning peeling an egg. This simple act becomes an obsession for the man, who becomes very invested in the idea and life of this woman.

2. Feelings: While reading this story, I felt a mix of curiosity and (boredom) but the night would I would say, Lou's situation evoked sympathy at first, but after he became obsessed with a woman who he only saw through a window and kept watching, he came off as a bit of a stalker to me. If I was in the place of the woman, I would find the watching situation quite creepy. The ending felt unsatisfying, not knowing what happened then.

3. Evaluation: The story effectively portrays the inner life of a character who is both deeply isolated and yearning for connection, making his experience both relatable. While the ending left me with a sense of incompleteness, as I was wondering if he really went to the girl or was it another fantasy of his.

4. Analysis: Feuille D'Aur made me reflect on the feeling of loneliness and the human need for connection. Lou's fixation symbolizes his desire to be in a relationship. The story also raises questions about the line between admiration and obsession, as his actions are seemingly innocent, have an undercurrent of desperation and madness. This highlights how people need human relationships because humans can distort perceptions and lead to actions which are questionable.

5. Conclusion: The story reinforced the idea that loneliness can affect a person's behavior and perception of others. Also highlighting the fine line between healthy admiration and unhealthy obsession. The ending suggests that while connection is sought, it is not always achieved in a clear or satisfying way.

6. Action plan: I will always seek natural and genuine connections with others, but won't force it. I think about my actions towards others in advance. But there is no danger of loneliness in my life and I intend to keep it that way.

Murray Kinn: The Silence

1. Description: This is a short story that presents a unique and thought-provoking scenario where verbal communication is banned worldwide for an entire day. The story shows various scenes that depict how different people react to this silence. Some people embrace it, while others struggle with the inability to express themselves. The narrative explores the impact of this silence on human relationships, showing how people attempt to communicate through gestures, expressions, or by shouting into themselves. As the day goes by, the characters experience a range of emotions, from calmness to frustration. When the day ends, the story leaves the reader contemplating the significance of language and communication.

2. Feelings: While reading the story, I tapped into the idea of a world without spoken words, which was both fascinating and unsettling. I empathized with the characters who struggled with the silence, but also with those who embraced it. It made me feel a range of emotions as I put myself in the situation.

3. Evaluation: The narrative effectively shows the importance of language in our daily life, while also revealing the possibilities for alternative forms of communication. It also allows us to see how silence affects people in different ways. I would also be interested in the long-term effects of this experiment.

4. Analysis: The story suggests that while verbal communication is central to human relationships, its absence can lead to both positive and negative outcomes. On one hand, silence can foster introspection, while on the other hand, it can

also cause frustration, and a sense of isolation. This can make people realize the value of language for growth, and how it's absence can fundamentally change a society.

5. Conclusion: The story shows what a powerful tool language really is, and the importance of learning it. Which also makes me aware of the dangers of silence in a society. For example, if people couldn't learn it at all, only a small percentage could. That would lead to the deterioration of society and potentially give power hungry people a big advantage.

6. Action plan: In the future, as a teacher, I will strive to ensure that everyone can learn the ability to speak clearly and use multiple languages, as it is essential for a high quality society. Additionally, I will seek to improve my ability to interpret non-verbal cues and to appreciate the nuances of silence in human understanding.

✓ Susan Hill: The Badness Within Him

1. Description: This is a psychological short story that ~~describes~~ delves into the life of a young boy who becomes aware of a darkness, "badness" within him. As he grows older the feeling ~~opens~~ intensifies, causing him to struggle with guilt.

The story explores his internal battle as he attempts to surpass the evil. His life is a constant internal conflict which leads to a sense of despair, as he feels overwhelmed by the darkness, his evil resides within him.

2. Feelings: The portrayal of his inner life was both disturbing and reassuring as it captured the intense self-isolation and -loathing that can accompany such feeling. I also felt a sense of worry as the story progressed knowing that this struggle was leading him down a path of increasing despair.

3. Evaluation The narrative's exploration of the concept of inherent evil is both thought-provoking and unsettling, encouraging readers to question the nature of morality and self-perception. However, the ending left me dissatisfied, as there was no clear path to redemption for the protagonist.

4. Analysis: The story would use thrust about the dear i
which guilt and fear can shape a person's identity and
actions. The story suggests that this internal conflict ^{conflict} will be
resolved as late as possible psychological disturb
It highlights the importance of self-acceptance. It also raises
questions about how society's moral expectations can make someone
feel lost and frustrated.

Dr. Couchman. It showed how an unprocessed, unworked conflict can greatly influence a person's life. He underscored how important it is to face problems with our beliefs and understand our fears and guilt. The protagonist emerges as a loner about the design of unworked self-betrayal and the need for compassion. It also reminded me the necessity of approaching these issues with empathy.

6. Action plan: I will strive to be more mindful of my own and others' potential and the way I perceive myself. I will also make an effort to confront feelings of guilt or break head-on. I hope to be better managing any negative emotions.

Reading Diary

E. H. Forster. The Story of the Siens
 When I started reading I found it hard
 to place where the story is set and
 what is happening. There are few cues
 that I ~~don't~~ didn't understand but I
 looked it up in the dictionary. When
 the Sicilians ~~fell~~ into the water I
 felt relieved that the dissertation wasn't
 badly reserved. When they started to talk
 about the Siens I felt like I was
 in that magical world with them. I
 am interested in myths and legends and
 when they started to converse about
 that they got my attention. I was con-
 fused at ~~first~~ first why the Sicilians
 brother became so greedy and could
 not be happy for anyone. Then I read
 about the siens, ~~they~~ their mythology,
 and I realised that while the original
 story says they live people into the

Reading Diary

E.M. Forster The Story of the Siyeh
 When I started reading I found I had
 to place where the story is set and
 what is happening. There are few more
 that I ~~don't~~ didn't understand but I
 looked it up in the dictionary. When
 the Sicilian ~~was~~ into the water I
 felt relieved that the dissertation might
 get rescued. When they started to talk
 about the Siyeh I felt like I was
 in that magical world with them. I
 was interested in myths and legends and
 when they started to converse about
 that they got my attention. I was con-
 fused at ~~the~~ first why the Sicilian's
 brother became so goddess and could
 not be happy for anyone. Then I read
 about the siyeh. ~~They~~ their mythology
 and I realised that while the original
 story says they live people into the

Reading Diary
 1. Kuman, R. & ...

The first thing I noticed up when I started reading notes what an Absurp is. I did not know this word before. ~~But~~ after As Joe described his surroundings I could practically feel the suffocating hot weather. I remembered ~~my~~ the time when I was at the sea. That is the hottest weather I have experienced so I could even imagine how hot it is in the desert. When I read how Joe lived I thought but I would be bored if I were him but he seemed fine being there alone doing only a few things a day. I wish the ~~the~~ solitude is good sometimes it helps us clear our heads but I could not tolerate this kind of isolation. When I first read of Tolbar my first thought was. Finally another person! The I realized that Joe is uncomfortable ~~and~~ when

he visits him which made me
dearise Treloar. I could understand why
he was disturbed by him but still
I did not know why he hid
from Joe. I understand that he got
used to the silence and the solitude but
still I can not imagine how he can
not meet Treloar even for a few
minutes in every two weeks.

10 Összegzés

Background

The objective of this project was to **analyze four English-language short stories** written by the following authors: E.M. Forster, Susan Hill, Murray Bail, and Katherine Mansfield. Using self-reflective methods, we examined the target language texts and aimed to explore how literary works can shape personal worldviews and reflect the challenges of human existence. Our intention was not only to understand the works but also to deepen our self-reflection, which helped uncover how our attitudes toward literature evolve through the studied texts. We aimed to understand how the characters and happenings in these short stories influence our personal thoughts and reshape our perspectives on the world.

Methodology

During the project, we employed the following self-reflective methods: we conducted exploratory research related to the short stories based on our personal interests, answered the questions meant to deepen our self-reflection posed by our mentor, independently analysed the literary texts, and recorded our thoughts, feelings and observations maintaining a reading journal. **The journal** helped us meticulously document our emotions, thoughts, and ideas related to the texts. After reading each story, we used the journal to record the **thoughts and emotions** the narratives evoked in us. This method allowed us to continuously track our attitude towards the works and to structure and process the complex readings inherent in the studied texts. The questions from our mentor guided us in uncovering deeper meanings and the symbolism within the stories. Additionally, our analysis sought to compare the various human issues and life situations depicted in the stories, examining how they relate to our own life experiences.

Results

Our work did not significantly alter our attitude towards literature, as we have always enjoyed reading literary works. However, delving deeper into the psychological dimensions of the stories brought about a qualitative shift in our reading experience. We found the exploration of hidden, often suppressed desires, fears, and motivations within the human psyche particularly intriguing. The complexity of the characters and the discovery of deeper layers within the stories offered us new perspectives on interpreting these works. While our overall approach to literature remained unchanged, the new reading experiences deepened our interest in the psychological aspects of literary works. The **psychological and, at times, philosophical**

questions raised during the analysis helped us better understand the complex dynamics behind human motivations and decisions, allowing us to appreciate the multifaceted messages conveyed by the stories.

Conclusions

The experiences gained during this project provided us with a new perspective on interpreting literature. The psychological and often philosophical depths of the short stories not only enhanced our reading experiences but also helped us understand the impact of literature on the human psyche. Keeping a reading journal and addressing the questions posed by our mentor enabled us to reflect on the stories regularly and systematically. This allowed us to consider not only the individual short stories but also the overall effects of literary works on us. The reflections and independent analyses ensured that the short stories were not merely entertaining but also enriching, thought-provoking experiences.

Summary

Our project focused on reading and analysing four English-language short stories using self-reflective methods, with particular attention to their psychological aspects. We employed several methods, including conducting exploratory research based on personal interests after reading each story, answering thought-provoking questions posed by our mentor, independently analysing the texts, and keeping a reading journal. **While the project did not fundamentally change our attitude toward literature, we experienced a significant qualitative improvement in our reception of the works.**

Háttér és célkitűzések

A pályamunka célja négy angol nyelvű elbeszélés elemzése volt, amelyeket brit (E.M.Foster, Susan Hill), ausztrál (Murray Bail) és új-zélandi (Kathrine Mansfield) szerzők írtak. A célnyelvi szövegeket önreflektív módszerek segítségével vizsgáltuk. Az irodalomnak az egyén fejlődésére gyakorolt hatásait vizsgálva próbáltunk választ keresni arra, hogyan formálhatják az irodalmi művek a személyes világgépet és hogyan tükrözik az emberi lét nehézségeit. Vállalkozásunk célja nemcsak a művek megértése volt, hanem az önreflexió elmélyítése is, amely segített feltárni, hogyan formálódik és hogyan változik az irodalomhoz való hozzáállásunk a tanulmányozott művek alapján. Ennek során próbáltuk megérteni, hogy miként befolyásolják a novellákban szereplő karakterek és történetek a személyes gondolatainkat, és hogyan alakítják át a világhoz való viszonyunkat.

Módszer

A pályamunka elkészítése során az alábbi önreflektív módszereket alkalmaztuk: az elbeszélésekhez kapcsolódó adatfeltáró munkát végeztünk személyes érdeklődésünk alapján, igyekeztünk megválaszolni a témavezetőnk által feltett, önreflexiót segítő kérdéseket, önállóan elemeztük az elbeszéléseket, olvasónaplót vezettünk. Ez utóbbi segített abban, hogy alaposan rögzítsük az olvasott művekhez kapcsolódó érzéseinket, gondolatainkat és kérdéseinket. Az olvasónapló segítségével az elbeszélések elolvasását követően rögzíteni tudtuk, hogy milyen gondolatokat, érzelmeket váltott ki belőlünk a történet. Ez a módszer lehetőséget adott arra, hogy a művekhez való viszonyunkat folyamatosan nyomon kövessük, és a megértett tartalmakat rendszerezzük. A témavezetőnk által feltett kérdések segítettek abban, hogy a művek mélyebb jelentéseit és szimbolikáját is felfedezzük. Ezen kívül az elemzés során arra is törekedtünk, hogy összehasonlítsuk a novellákban szereplő különböző emberi problémákat, élethelyzeteket, és azt vizsgáltuk, hogyan hozhatók kapcsolatba saját élettapasztalatainkkal.

Eredmények

A munkánk során nem tapasztaltunk különösebb változást az irodalomhoz való hozzáállásunkban, mivel már korábban is szívesen olvastunk irodalmi műveket. Az olvasott művek pszichológiai vonatkozásainak mélyebb feltárása során az irodalmi művekhez kapcsolódó olvasói élményünkben minőségi változást tapasztaltunk. Különösen érdekesnek találtuk az elbeszélések azon aspektusait, amelyek az emberi lélek rejtett, sokszor elnyomott vágyait, félelmeit és motivációit mutatják be. A novellák karaktereinek összetettsége és a történetek mélyrétegeinek felfedezése új megvilágításba helyezte számunkra a művek értelmezését. Az irodalomhoz való hozzáállásunk nem változott meg alapvetően, azonban az új olvasói élmények révén úgy érzem, hogy még inkább elmélyült az érdeklődésünk az irodalom pszichológiai vonatkozásai iránt. A novellák elemzése során felmerülő pszichológiai és néha filozófiai kérdések segítettek abban, hogy jobban megértsük az emberi motivációk és döntések mögötti komplex dinamikát, és ezáltal jobban értékeljük az irodalmi művek által közvetített összetett, sokrétű üzeneteket.

Következtetések

A pályamunka során szerzett tapasztalatok új perspektívát adtak az irodalom értelmezésében. A novellák pszichológiai és sokszor filozófiai mélységei nemcsak az olvasási élményeinket tették

jobbá, hanem segítettek megérteni az irodalom emberi pszichére gyakorolt hatását. Az olvasónapló vezetése és a témavezetőnk által feltett kérdések lehetővé tették számunkra, hogy folyamatosan és rendszeresen reflektáljunk az olvasott művekre, és az értelmezésük során ne csak az egyes novellák, hanem általában az irodalmi művek ránk gyakorolt hatásait is figyelembe vegyük. A reflexiók és az önálló műelemzések segítettek abban, hogy az olvasott elbeszélések ne csupán szórakoztassanak, hanem tanulságos és gondolatébresztő élményekkel is gazdagítsanak minket.

Rövid összefoglalás

A pályamunkánk elkészítése során négy angol nyelvű elbeszélés elolvasása és önreflektív módszerekkel való elemzése volt a célunk, különös figyelmet fordítva a művek pszichológiai vonatkozásaira. A rendelkezésünkre álló módszerek közül az alábbiakat alkalmaztuk: minden elbeszélés elolvasását követően adatfeltáró munkát végeztünk személyes érdeklődésünk alapján, igyekeztünk megválaszolni a témavezetőnk által feltett, önreflexiót segítő kérdéseket, önállóan elemeztük az elbeszéléseket, olvasónaplót vezettünk. A munka nem változtatta meg alapvetően az irodalomhoz való hozzáállásunkat, de a befogadói élményben jelentős minőségi változást tapasztaltuk meg.