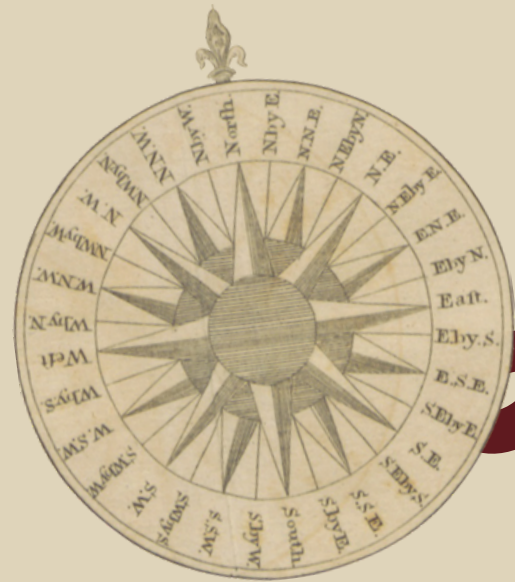
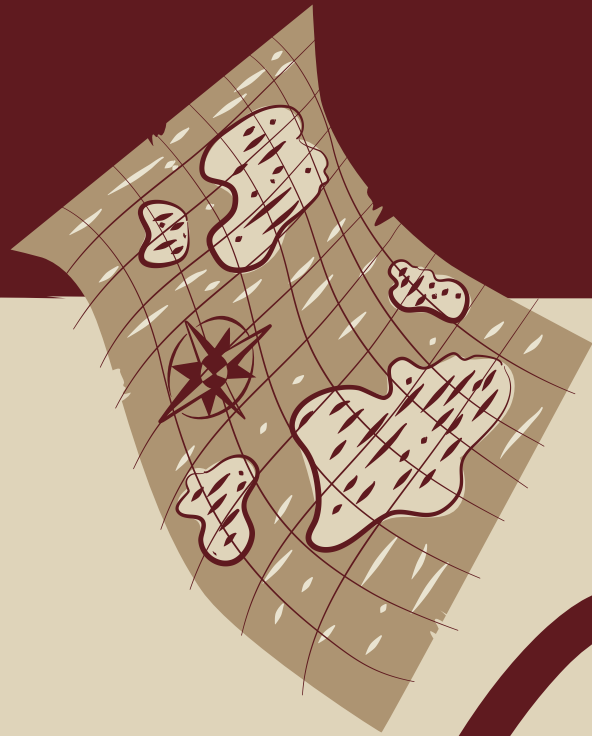


*Project Erasmus Plus KA2 'Memory of  
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their message for the contemporary  
generation' 2020-1-SK01-KA229-  
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World War II

# Literature

prose of Europe



# *Introduction*

Artists living during World War II had to go through a lot of difficult and tragic experiences that inspired them to write about the challenges of their daily life. The stories we analysed present a variety of perspectives and reflect on important problems of war's brutality and make us appreciate peace even more.

# Giorgio Perlasca

The genocide of the Jews has left many testimonies, including that of Primo Levi or Anne Frank, but there are other very significant ones. One in particular is the story of Giorgio Perlasca, a non-Jewish merchant who risked his life to help the Jews in Budapest. He is a real hero, in fact with various tricks he pretended to be Spanish consul in Budapest and by deceiving the Nazis he saved over 5000 Hungarian Jews.

# THE BANALITY OF GOOD

The book was partially extracted from his diary written while he was in Budapest. Significant is the day 30 December. At night they had taken Jews from the ghetto and killed them in the square. The next day a Hungarian officer showed him many dead bodies stranded on the Danube, especially women and children, to tell him that it was not the army that had fired. Perlasca's answer was: "the army is for enforcing laws, not for seeing these atrocities and doing nothing to avoid it." A clear message for those who passively accept atrocities.

# THE BANALITY OF GOOD

The way of how they were killed is hard and important to better understand the situation: "They were forced to walk for about two kilometers, in line by two, with their hands tied, barefoot and completely undressed. They were then made to kneel on the river bank and shot in their head.



# ALENA MORNŠTAJNOVÁ

ALENA MORNŠTAJNOVÁ was born 24 June 1963 in Velešín (Velešín) is a Czech writer and translator. She attended Ostrava University, where she studied English and Czech. She has published a series of acclaimed novels, starting with her debut novel *Slepá mapa* (Blind Map, 2013) which was nominated for the 2014 Czech Book Prize. Subsequent works include *Hotýlek* (The Little Hotel, 2015), *Hana* (2017), and *Tiché roky* (Years of Silence, 2019). She has also written a book for children, *Strašidýlko stráša* (Stráša the Little Ghost).

# HANA

It's 1954 and nine-year-old Mira's life is about to change forever. After a typhoid outbreak rages through her town, robbing her of her parents and siblings, the orphaned child is forced to live with her mysterious, depressive Aunt Hana, a figure both frightening and fragile. Gradually, Mira uncovers the secrets of their troubled family history and begins to understand why her aunt is so incapable of trusting herself and the world around her.

Deftly weaving two separate timelines, the harrowing reasons behind Hana's reclusive way of life, the guilt she wears as palpably as a cloak, and the tattoo on her wrist, are revealed to Mira.



# HANA

Hana is her most successful work to date and has been translated into English and several other languages. It was nominated for the 2021 EBRD Book Prize..

# TADEUSZ BOROWSKI

Tadeusz Borowski was a poet, prose writer, publicist. He belonged to The Generation of Columbuses. He was born in 1922 in Żytomierz in the USSR, he died tragically on July 3, 1951. The circumstances of his death are unclear. He attended underground studies in Polish literature at Warsaw University, where he was one of the best students. In his personal life, he was in a relationship with Maria Rundo. He was imprisoned in Pawiak prison, Auschwitz, Natzweiser-Dautmergen, Dachau-Allach and Munich camp. The slave labour there, the poems and songs he wrote inspired his writing. He was released in September 1945 and then returned to Warsaw.

# THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED ON

The story is about the last summer spent by the main character in the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. The events unfold in 1944, when Germany begins to lose on the Eastern and Western fronts. Transports with prisoners keep arriving at the camp. The narrator tells about his life in the camp. The days went by the same. People were still walking behind the ramp. He often heard them scream. The narrator reflects on the people who were going to die. He says they didn't know they were going to burn down. The prisoners were witnesses of these terrible, merciless murders. The rest of the story describes the relationships between prisoners, their daily life and thoughts. They are used to the cruelty surrounding them.

# ODYSSEAS ELYTIS

He was a Greek poet, essayist and translator, regarded as a major exponent of romantic modernism in Greece and the world. He is one of the most praised poets of the second half of the twentieth century, with his *Axion Esti* "regarded as a monument of contemporary poetry". In 1979, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

# AXION ESTI

Axion Esti is a greek piece that speaks about the WW2 and inside of it it has a text about it which is called „The plot with nettles“. This work came out in 1959 and gave Odysseas Elytis nobel in 1979.

One saturday some Germans came and they dictated a number of Greeks to gather on a plot. On the side of Germans there was a Greek convict who's job was to show the Germans which Greek people they should kill. Between Greeks there was a man called Lefteris who did not like submission and was the only one who did not listen to anything the convict told him. So because of his reckless behaviour a German general ordered the Greek convict to kill him and he did.

*Thank you!*

Roberto Boscia

Jacopo Lorusso

Domenico Petressi

Natália Thernová

Oliwia Mała

Thanos Sargiotis