English Through Art – Kraków, October 2017

1. Read this short text on Stanisław Wyspiański and explain the listed words or expressions.

Stanisław Wyspiański (born on January 15, 1869, in Kraków, died on November 28, 1907, in Kraków) was a Polish playwright and painter, a leading artist of the early 20th-century period. He was a prominent member of the Young Poland movement.

His paintings, especially his designs for stained-glass windows, reveal his genius for dramatic and visionary composition.

The repetitive ornaments in the interiors designed by Wyspiański were taken from nature. Wyspiański chose motifs affiliated with Kraków – the chestnut and the geranium, colloquially known as the "Krakowiak." He was also inspired by the local monuments.

Another factor affecting the interior décor by Wyspiański was the presence of antiquity, an example of which is the monumental, motionless figure of Apollo in the stained glass window in the Doctors’ Association House in Kraków a masterpiece which occupies a special place in the artist’s output.

stained glass window -

The Young Poland Movement -

his designs -

visionary composition -

the artist’s output -

motif -

repetitive ornaments -

the interior décor -

masterpiece -

2. Find examples of Wyspiański’s masterpieces on the Internet and choose one which you’ll write and talk about.

3. You might want to use the following format.

Out of many masterpieces by Wyspiański I choose to present to you ( give the title) ……………

We can see it at the ………………………..(Doctor’s Association House in Krakow)

The main characters are /character is ………………………………../ what is the relationship between the characters, if there are more than one.

The scene is set in/at

………………………..(tell us what the characters are doing or what is happening)

The composition suggests ….

(Name some objects/symbols in the painting and say if they are realistic or not) ...we can see …..in the background/ in the foreground.

Answer the questions:

What attracted you to this particular masterpiece? (the colours, the composition, the symbolic meanings, artist’s imagination)