

Intergenerational Reading Project

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The 2025/2026 school year – twelve years of the intergenerational reading project

- The project was set up at the Slovenian Reading Badge Society in collaboration with the Slovenian Book Agency in the 2014/2015 school year.



- The books are contributed by the Slovenian Reading Badge Society (from the Golden Reader Collection) and the Slovenian Book Agency (from the project Growing Up With a Book). Some books are donated to us by Slovenian publishing houses.

The main goals of the intergenerational reading project

- to promote more reading and more readers,
- to promote quality Slovene youth literature, especially from the collections 'Golden Reader' and 'Growing with a Book',
- to encourage intergenerational reading, i.e. the reading of different age groups of readers, especially in person, (but also through digital media)...
- to encourage intergenerational relationships and mutual understanding,
- to encourage higher-level reading (the Ljubljana Reading Manifesto, 2023).

Over twelve years, the project has expanded and has seen several changes:

- In the beginning, there were only groups of young readers from the third grade of primary school and high school students, as well as adults (teachers, parents, reading clubs from local libraries, people in homes for the elderly etc.),
- Than the proportion of peer-to-peer and family reading meetings has increased, as have reading groups in primary schools with an adapted programme.

Why?

It appeared during the pandemic (two school years) and after it, but also on the basis of previous experiences;

a number of children's books were also included on reading lists – these are also donated by Slovene publishing houses;

dedicated mentors listen to the needs, utilise opportunities, link together different reading efforts;

in some primary schools, a number of reading groups and reading meetings with varied groups of readers were set up on the basis of good practices;

intergenerational reading meetings were linked to other activities at school, they also included non Slovene children, connected with kindergartens, etc.

- In the 2025/2026 school year, nearly 100 reading groups are participating:
- 40 % peer reading, peer-to-peer reading,
- 20 % intergenerational reading groups as set up at the start of the project,
- 20 % meetings with readers with special needs at primary schools with an adapted programme,
- 15 % meetings encouraging family reading,
- 5 % reading meetings between young readers and elderly people in care homes.
- Overall, the project is 40 % more successful than the year before.

Peer reading, peer-to-peer reading

Individual pupils of higher grades read to younger children at school or kindergarten, they choose the books themselves and prepare activities after reading, (regularly every week, month, throughout the school year).



IG groups read and discuss books

Pupils from the last three years of primary school, high school students and adults read the same books for young people and talk about them. (Two to four meetings per school year.)



Readers with special needs, elementary schools with and adapted programme

Reading is adapted to the abilities of people with special needs, with adapted materials, (throughout the year, including individual events).



Family reading

- visits from individual parents or grandparents to groups of children who read to them (regularly, every month),
- the coordinator invites all parents and grandparents to reading meeting with their children (twice during school years),
- the coordinator constantly encourages family reading in different ways (preschool reading badge).



Reading meetings in homes for the elderly

- young readers read and talk with older people, or they just read to them, if the elderly can no longer read
- occasional reading meetings.



The Slovenian Reading Badge Society offers to IG groups organizational and professional support:

- It offers them a selection of book titles which can be of help but it is not mandatory. If they want, it can also offer them professional help, ideas, etc.
- Then a variety of IG reading meetings take place (also in connection with other reading events and projects at school and in the community, related to celebrations, interdisciplinary connections, etc.)
- After every meeting, reading coordinators send short reports, - now for the second year in the e-form, - we prepare working reports monthly and send them to all coordinators; at the end of each school year analyse all the data.
- So a database of good practices in the field of reading promotion is being created, which is available to reading mentors: <https://www.bralnaznacka.si/sl/medgeneracijsko-branje/>

The benefits of intergenerational reading / a few insights

- All intergenerational reading groups report on the satisfaction of readers (they read and discuss issues freely, in their spare time, according to their abilities, interests and desires); relaxed relationships!
- Readers of different generations have different opinions about the same books; they 'reveal' literature to each other (reading books, discussions about books)
- Through relaxed conversation, young and adults come to know each other, their problems, attitudes towards the world and life, etc.; all forms of intergenerational reading deepen interpersonal relationships.
- Young readers (pupils from the last three years of primary school) wish that parents should read more youth literature and discuss it with them.
- Intergenerational reading confirms the meaning of reading aloud to others (peer reading, young people reading to older people in nursery homes, family reading, reading with children with special needs).
- At the same time, it is also about promoting reading literacy with individuals, different groups, and the population in general.
- All these strengthen the opinion that reading is a value.



- Thank you for your attention!