

AN INVITATION TO THE EXCITING WORLD OF READING

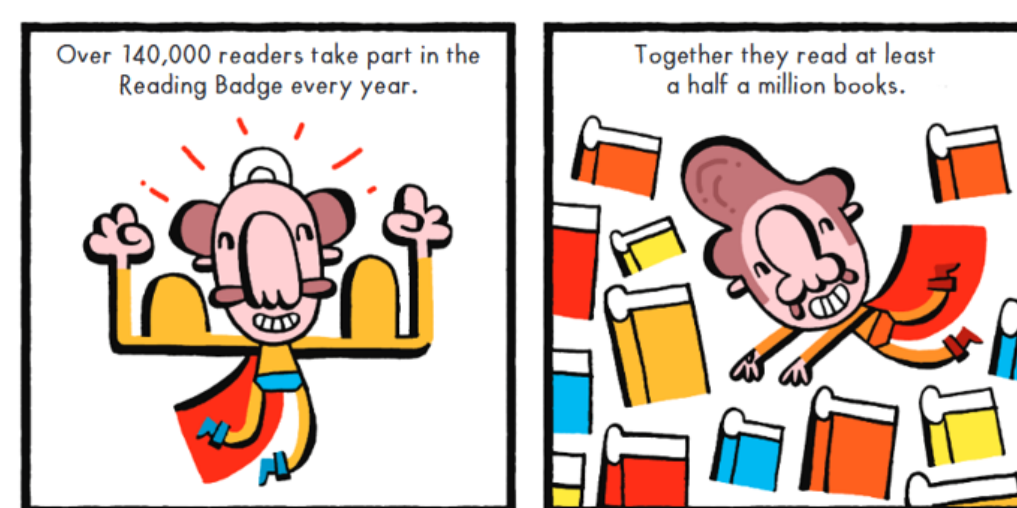
THE GOLDEN READER PROJECT

385,000 PICTURE BOOKS FOR FIRST-GRADERS (AND THEIR FAMILIES)

SLOVENIAN READING BADGE SOCIETY

- ❖ Slovenian Reading Badge Society is the NGO heading the Reading Badge movement in terms of professional guidance and organization.
- ❖ The mission of the Reading Badge, supported by schools, libraries and similar organizations, is **to promote lifelong development of reading culture and reading literacy**.
- ❖ The movement's initiatives today brings together about 140,000 readers each year. Reading is supported by about 7000 mentors (and that only in primary schools!) – librarians, teachers and other experts, as well as authors and publishers; children are also encouraged to read by their families.

- ❖ Provides guidelines for the selection of reading materials and develops the tools needed for their use.
- ❖ Shares **expert knowledge** for the development of modern strategies for encouraging reading.
- ❖ **Informs about the development of reading, writing and literary culture.**
- ❖ Ensures efficient and quick **integration of the network** of participants and **flow of information**.
- ❖ **Organizes** programmes of specialized **education and exchanges**.
- ❖ **Coordinates visits** of Slovenian authors.
- ❖ Provides motivational **book gifts** and works to **improve the quality** of youth literature.
- ❖ Prepares **motivational materials** and certificates.
- ❖ Develops various **pilot programmes** and **projects** for different age groups.
- ❖ **Collaborates** with similar organizations in Slovenia and elsewhere.
- ❖ A member of the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth and is internationally active as a member of the Slovenian Section of IBBY and the Federation of European Literacy Associations.



THE GOLDEN READER PROJECT

- ❑ Since school year 2003/2004, each student has been given a **picture book at the beginning of primary school**, and thousands of faithful readers were presented with a **book at the end of their primary schooling**.
- ❑ The books are considered a gift and a motivational tool. They promote family reading, help develop reading habits and reading culture and help raise young readers who will love and enjoy reading all their life.
- ❑ The **collection of books *The Golden Reader*** is one of the most important projects of our Society. We have been building it for more than 20 years with the support of sponsors and other collaborators.

The **book collection** is structurally divided into **two parts**, as it is intended for two age groups:

- **first-graders** (and their families); Number of copies: cca 25,000

(The average circulation of printed books in Slovenia is about 1,000 copies);

- **young readers** („Golden Readers“) at the end of primary school; Number of copies: 9,000

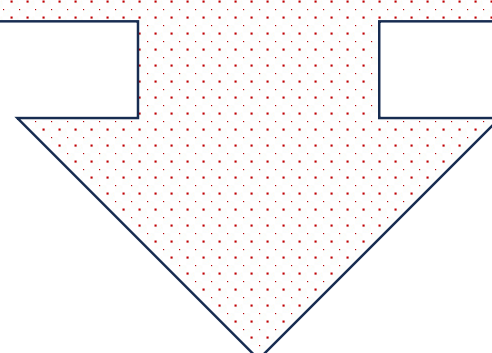
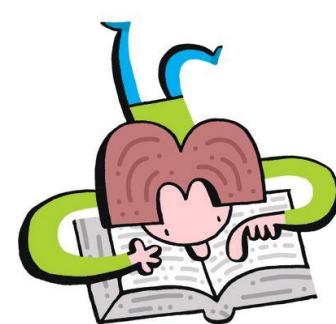
(„Golden reader“: a reader who completes the Reading Badge programme in all nine grades of primary school).

THE EXTENT OF THE PROJECT

- ❑ The uniqueness of the project is, above all, its **dimensional emphasis**, as the reprint of the selected picture book is given to a whole generation of first -graders in Slovenia and the entire Slovenian cultural space.
- ❑ The reprint of the book covers almost 40% of the ninth-graders and is also intended for all *Golden Readers* in the Slovenian cultural space.
- ❑ The Golden Reader Project is considered the **longest-lasting and most extensive book gift promotional campaign** ever in the field of books for children and young people in Slovenia.
- ❑ We have donated **763,500 books!** - 349,500 books to twenty generations of *Golden Readers*, **385,000** copies for first-graders and **25,000** other books of the Slovenian Reading Badge Society.

ENCOURAGING FAMILY READING

- ❑ Developing family reading and the programmes for the youngest readers is an important task of the Reading Badge.
- ❑ In the last twenty-five years, the Reading Badge has also spread to Slovene kindergartens and general libraries as the pre-school reading badge, which encourages especially parents to read to their pre-school age children.
- ❑ Family reading is a very important form of support at least until the end of the first three years of primary schooling.
- ❑ Family reading programmes, which bring together family members of different ages, also include a project of intergenerational reading, which has been running for over a decade.



A PICTURE BOOK FOR FIRST-GRADERS (AND THEIR FAMILIES)

- ❑ The picture book is an invitation to **first-graders (and their families!)** into the world of reading.
- ❑ We make sure schools receive books at the beginning of the school year (September 1st). Schools are asked to hand out picture books **on September 17th**.
- ❑ **On September 17th, we celebrate „Golden Book Day“** (the day of birth and death of Slovene writer, poet and translator France Bevk, who was one of the first collaborators and supporters of the Reading Badge movement). This day marks the beginning of the new reading season.
- ❑ At some selected primary schools, the **picture books** are ceremoniously **distributed** to first-graders by **prominent Slovenian authors**.
- ❑ Right now, the distribution of books for first-graders is in progress.

ADDED VALUE OF THE PROJECT

The **added value** of the project is not only in the fact that young readers receive a high-quality book as a gift, the exceptionality and comprehensiveness of the project are also reflected in many other important highlights:

- ❑ Encouraging **family reading**;
- ❑ Enrichment of **home libraries**;
- ❑ Enrichment of **school libraries** - three **additional books** per school are donated every year;
- ❑ **Development** of reading habits and reading culture among children and young people;
- ❑ Children and young people are supported in their search for beauty and values in the rich world of literature, encouraging them to be creative and active participants in the reading community.
- ❑ Promotion of **intergenerational reading** - a few additional copies are devoted to the implementation in the coming years;
- ❑ **Data collection** of tracking reading habits - a questionnaire completed by mentors for each school separately - data analysis for the further development of future plans.
- ❑ **Promotion** of authors and illustrators (performances in schools, public attention) as well as publishing houses where the originals of the books were published;
- ❑ Different motivational and informational **materials** for children and informational and/or educational materials for teachers, librarians, and parents.