

## **ABSTRACT**

The work focuses on the main characters in Boyne's novels for young people, through which important themes are explored and significant questions are raised that influence not only the youth but also society. The work examines the content and interpretations of these novels, considering various literary aspects of the works. In detail, the work focuses on literary characters and their characterization, exploring the main protagonists. The author identifies the didactic potential, main themes, and their contribution to youth in the selected novels. The didactic part includes six lessons for the second stage of elementary school, which can be adapted in various ways. The lessons apply the E-U-R teaching model, tandem teaching, and various RWCT (Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking) methods suitable for developing reading literacy. Various teaching organizational forms and reading note-taking methods are used. The lessons are crucial for the work as the author aims to demonstrate the didactic potential of Boyne's novels for youth, in which pupils can find significant themes. If pupils have the opportunity to discover these themes on their own, literature educates them, guides them toward values, and can help them if they find themselves in similar situations. Particularly, boys in the second stage may or may not identify with the main male characters in Boyne's novels. The work further explores the reading habits of students in the second stage, what students prefer in literature classes, and what their priorities are when selecting reading materials. This can inspire literature teachers in their teaching approach.

## **KEYWORDS**

Children's and Young Adult Literature, Important Themes, Small Heroes, Literary Character, John Boyne