

## **Abstract**

The Master's thesis *How children relate to literary characters: a qualitative study* delves into exploring how children relate to literary characters and perceive their position in relation to the fictional world. The thesis begins by mapping the issue of reading experience within Czech and foreign publications, focusing on the relationship between the child and the fictional character. The theoretical part presents the phenomenon within the framework of Czech studies, primarily from a didactic perspective, and then through concepts of reading in international cognitively oriented studies. The practical component aims to present the primary research, consisting of interviews on reading with child participants, which served as the basis for the secondary research. The data processing methodology of the secondary research will be presented, and its findings will be introduced through narrative interpretation. The final chapter compares the findings with the primary research and places them in the context of Czech and international research studies, followed by formulating conclusions for educational practice. The thesis demonstrates that children's relationship with literary characters is complex and diverse, impacting both the reading experience and the interconnection between the fictional and real worlds.