

DESIGN YOUR OWN BOOK COVER

COMPETITION WINNERS

It's that time of year again: the time to announce the winners of our year-long competition. And once again, BRIDGE readers have done us proud.

In the past, these competitions have usually focused on writing. Unfortunately, in the last couple of years, some people have started using AI for competition entries, forcing us to look for new challenges. That's partly why we asked you for book cover designs made using collage techniques. But we were unsure. It's a demanding task. Would anyone bother to try?

We needn't have worried: we received hundreds of entries. And many of the designs were so good that choosing winners was a serious challenge. If only this was the world of *Alice in Wonderland*, and we could say, like the Dodo Bird, "Everybody has won, and all must have prizes." As it is, five winners and ten runners-up are included here.

WINNERS



Marie Tomanová tells us that she chose William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* having become interested in it for a pretty unusual reason: she first took part in a gender-swapped (and more upbeat) version called *Julian and Romea* at her school! Her collage gives us two remarkably expressive faces, "facing away from each other to symbolise their families' shared hate, the dagger between the couple meant to tear them apart". The colours are carefully chosen: "Red, the colour of love, but also danger and warnings; blue, the colour of peace."

This collage by **Nela Ženožičková** (Střední průmyslová škola a obchodní akademie Uherský Brod) represents, in Nela's words, the rabbit-hole down which Alice falls. This book requires you to "comprehend the incomprehensible" – but that's why Nela loves it. There's so much to explore in the details of her design, including handwritten quotes from the book and real playing cards.

PRIZE
An Alza voucher
worth 1,000 CZK

We must admit that **Carolina Janoščáková** (Gymnázium Park Mládeže 5, Košice) pushed the definitions of both book cover and collage to breaking point with her design, but as she points out, Wonderland is a place "where logic does not matter and imagination takes over". And how could we argue when the result is so beautiful? "What fascinated me most about both the book and the movie is the celebration of imagination, curiosity and the unusual," Carolina says.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll was one of the most popular choices and had some of the most creative, thoughtful and beautiful entries.





In this elegant design for George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, made by **Julie Ralbovská** (Střední odborná škola podnikatelská Most), images of the pig Napoleon and Joseph Stalin visually represent the book's central story about "how power can corrupt and how good intentions can turn bad when greed and manipulation take over". It's a very professional design: you can easily imagine it on the shelves in a bookshop.



This collage by **Karolína Fiedorová** (Gymnázium Josefa Božka, Český Těšín) for Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* looks rather innocent at first sight – very much like the book's antihero, whose story "shows how something stupid like beauty and youth can cloud your mind and shatter your personality into pieces". Karolína used real mirrored surfaces in her collage, blood dripping from the sharp edges. "Dorian's face is made of broken shards of mirror or glass," she explains, "as after every bad word, every evil act his soul is cracking and bleeding."

RUNNERS-UP

THE POSTER

If your work isn't here, you may still have a chance to win a prize. We hope to use cover designs from this competition on our classroom poster celebrating English literature, and the criteria for that will be different as we will focus on representing a wider range of titles.

If you feel inspired by these competition winners and would like to have a design considered for the poster, that is still possible. Make your design in accordance with the original competition rules (scan the QR code to read the rules) and send it to us by the end of June. People whose work is used on the poster but who did not receive a competition prize will receive extra rewards.



PRIZE
An Alza voucher
worth 500 CZK



Daniela Šíroková (ZŠ ČSA, Moldava nad Bodvou) caught our eye by not only making a cover but a complete mock-up of *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells. She chose this book as it "focuses on the fragility of human civilization" and serves as "a warning about how vulnerable we can be to a force we don't understand", a message that "remains relevant more than a hundred years after it was written". Her cover features a Martian tripod based on the 2005 Spielberg movie, while interior illustrations play with other designs (one looking rather cute for such a scary story). We couldn't let such creativity go unrecognised, of course!

Here again we have two interpretations of one story, this time *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.



Nikola Nguyen (Klvaňovo gymnázium a střední zdravotnická škola Kyjov) says she loves the book: “The chirps of the birds, the piano, the sounds of her breathing and footsteps and pages turned, the beautiful light that the sun casts on the British countryside...” She uses flowers to illustrate how “even though their journey didn’t seem promising and wasn’t easy at the beginning, they eventually found their connection and their love began to bloom”.

Sofia Čenščáková (Spojená škola, org. zložka gymnázium, Spišská Stará Ves) gives us a film tie-in design, with Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen as Elizabeth and Darcy, as it was the film that originally made her interested in reading the book. She explains that “a background of notes describes their love of playing the piano and dancing”.



Two takes on *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley made our list of finalists.



Karolína Křišťálová (Smíchovská střední průmyslová škola a gymnázium, Praha) chose the book because she loves “how morally ambiguous the whole story is”, with her preferred interpretation being “one of an uncaring parent and a hurt child”. She explains how in her design, the two figures represent Victor Frankenstein and his creation, but that they are interchangeable because who is monster and who the victim can change depending on how you choose to look at the characters.

Zoé Hercegová (ZŠ ČSA, Moldava nad Bodvou) – probably our youngest entrant – made her design a kind of patchwork of painting and print. She says she likes mixing different styles and even burnt some pieces to make the design more interesting. It’s both beautiful and broken, like Frankenstein’s creation itself.



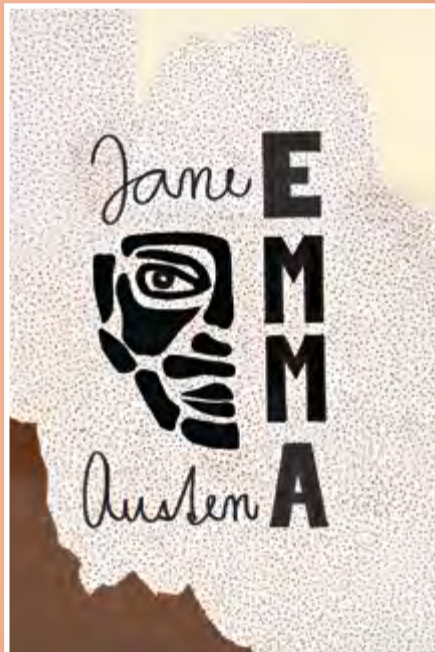


Jan Medřický (Gymnázium Tanvald) is a fan of detective novels, and especially the masterly storytelling of Agatha Christie. He gives us a simple but eye-catching representation of themes from his chosen book, ***Murder on the Orient Express***: a train and murder in the night. He says he purposely chose a muted colour palette to go with the theme.

In his interpretation of ***The Picture of Dorian Gray*** by Oscar Wilde, **Nikola(s) Janeba** (Gymnázium Chodovická, Praha) refers to Dorian's choice of "beauty and comfort over kindness and morality". The contrast of the two figures "shows how Dorian went from standing up proud to basically being pulled down by the weight of all his filthy sins". But Nikola(s) explains that it is also meant to remind us of the author's own struggles with being condemned and punished in real life for his homosexuality.



Viktorie Kneřová (Gymnázium Tanvald) offers an eye-catching design for ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*** by Lewis Carroll, based on the White Rabbit ("a very important character because he takes Alice to Wonderland"), with the hearts on his clothes being a reference "to the Queen of Hearts as well as Alice's emotions during her adventure". The design is made in three dimensions to "literally stand out from the book and draw the reader into a magical world even before the book is opened".



This design for Jane Austen's ***Emma*** by **Nikola Kratochvílová** (Klvaňovo gymnázium Kyjov) is simple and impactful, but also thought through in every detail. Nikola tried to "visualize Emma's personality and transfer it to the cover", choosing black for the character's face because to her it means "independence and strength". Even the colours of the dots have symbolic meaning: the brown and grey represent "cloudy weather and soil" as a reference to the rural village in which Emma grows up.



Nikola Šmídová (Gymnázium Ústavní, Praha) considers the mystery novel ***And Then There Were None*** to be one of the best stories Agatha Christie ever wrote. Her design grabbed our attention from the moment we saw it, with its dynamic countdown, mysterious soldier (a reference to china figurines that feature in the story) and use of clean, sharp black, white and red. "I wanted a mysterious and dramatic effect," explains Nikola, "so colours and shapes are kept simple." It certainly works.