

**ABSTRACT**

The thesis deals with the cultural legacy of Jan Palach in song and poetry texts of the 20th and 21st century. The author of the thesis aims to present the use of these texts in teaching, which deals with (historical) topics that provoke intense and often contradictory emotional reactions - here, demonstrative suicide for the awakening of society. In the first part, she draws a brief insight into the life of Jan Palach and the events that preceded his act, and describes Palach's self-immolation itself as a demonstrative act. It also includes a philosophical and theological perspective on Palach's sacrifice. For the purposes of the lesson, the writer interprets the collected texts, thus contributing to the limited amount of scholarly Czech literature on the depiction of the act in song and poetry. In the second part of the thesis, she then uses these texts in the teaching unit design for use in history, Czech language, civics or music classes. Together with the lesson, she presents further uses of the collected material. The paper shows the results of a pilot lesson in the seventh year of an eight-year grammar school, including comments from the participating pupils. The work is dedicated to honouring the legacy of the 55th anniversary of the burning of Jan Palach.

**KEYWORDS**

Jan Palach, self-immolation, poem in teaching, protest song, torch, normalization, communist regime.