

The main aim of this thesis is an introduction to reception of the youth and childrens literature (YCL) and a practical probe targeted on the readers reception of Little Nicolas by R. Goscinny and J.-J. Sempé in contemporary Czech environment. Today, fifty years after the issue of the first book of the series, Little Nicholas is already a classical work of not only the French YCL, but the worlds YCL in general. We were trying to establish how this general popularity of the book shows in an individual reading experience of one young recipient. In the first, theoretical part of the thesis (parts II to V), a brief historical overview of the YCL is introduced, particularly with regard to the Czech and French cultural areas. The present state and the tendencies of the theoretical research in the area of YCL are summarised, as well as some of the basic characteristics of its form and subject matter. Finally, the conclusion of the theoretical part of the thesis tackles the question of the reception itself. We look at it at first from a universal perspective, later we centre on some specifics of literary communication of the child recipient, in particular some approaches causing concretization of the literary text in the childs consciousness. These are the starting points for the theoretical foundation of our probe into the reception of one particular text belonging to the childrens literature – a short story Bike from the Little Nicholas series. After having analysed the communication situation, the practical part of the thesis (part VI) starts with the analysis of the works reception – at first in wider context of the source and target cultures (French and Czech), later on the level of individual interpretation. To be able to evaluate this interpretation, our own hypothesis of the readers concretization of the story is stated (this was based on our analysis of the text) and compared to the outcome of interviews and a questionnaire filled in by children between 9 and 11 years of age.