

## **Abstrakt anglicky:**

**Title of the thesis:** Horizon of expectations of Czech and French speaking readers of children's literature

**Keywords:** czech and french children's literature, horizon of expectations, reception of literature, reader, writer's strategy, Petr Nikl, Philippe Lechermeier

### **Abstract:**

The study entitled *Horizon of expectations of Czech and French speaking readers of children's literature* is concerned with the reception of children's literature in Czech and French speaking environment. The aim of the thesis is to find out if and how the expectations of the readers change with their literary context and to discover the extent to which the contemporary writers Petr Nikl and Philippe Lechermeier come to meet their audiences. To answer this question various methodological procedures are employed: observation and then comparison of Czech and French literary context to form the hypotheses. The hypotheses are verified by the case study based on the analyses of two books (*Záhádky* by Petr Nikl and *Le Journal secret de Petit Poucet* from Philippe Lechermeier) and on the analyses of critical reviews and comments. We discovered the writer's strategies and the expectations of the readers and we compared them with our hypotheses to make a final appraisal.

The thesis is divided into eight parts: Introduction, 1. Basis of literary critique of children's literature, 2. Literary context of contemporary readers, 3. Hypotheses regarding expectations of Czech and French speaking readers, 4. Life and work of Petr Nikl, Philippe Lechermeier and Rebecca Dautremer, 5. Literary analysis, 6. Analysis of critical reviews comments of readers, and Conclusion.

After the final appraisal, we found that the expectations of readers from different literary context vary in some items and coincide in others. We also confirmed that both writers apply and exceed the horizon of expectation of their readers, which makes their books successful and valuable. Based on these findings, we can focus on the reception of children's readers, which is currently not sufficiently explored due to the lack of documentation. Knowing their expectations could help to increase their interest in reading and to improve the level of their reading skills.