**23. Role models and idols**

* Positive and negative human qualities, an ideal human, moral standards (morálne zásady) and values (hodnoty)
* Human being I have a great admiration for (človek, ktorého obdivujem)
* Real and literature heroes

A **hero** or heroine is an extraordinary character (osobnosť, osoba) that represents the most important qualities valued (oceňované, vysoko hodnotené) by a certain culture. The hero is usually idealised and often possesses (má) superhuman characteristics (nadľudské črty, vlastnosti). These enable (umožňujú mu) him or her to perform extraordinary acts (vykonať mimoriadne skutky) for which he or she is famous. On the other hand, we can say that an ideal person does not exist because every individual has both positive and negative traits (črty, vlastnosti).

Every country has important personalities in their history who become idols (heroes) for many generations. They often become one of the symbols of the country (e.g. Jánošík in Slovakia – legendary folk hero who robbed the rich (okrádal bohatých) and gave the loot (/lút/ korisť) - money and things to the poor (chudobným).

Every society believes in a certain hierarchy of values. Love, health, faith, family and friendship are usually the top values but some people consider money and career as the most important. A similar hierarchy of values is also important for a good relationship.

**ROLE-MODEL:** model example, person according to whom somebody else tries to live, look like, dress... because of his character or skills. Importance of role-models: some people need no role-models, they want to go their own way, but many people are influenced by role-models (good look, intelligence, humour, talent, skills, success, lifestyle, character…) who inspire people, are their ideals (vzor).

**PARENTS, FAMILY:** our first role models, they brought us up, taught us to be polite, friendly, to greet and respect people, to help others…, family is important for shaping/forming our personal qualities (if a child is loved, he/ she will love, if he/ she is criticized, he/ she will criticize others…)

**SCHOOL:** nearly as important as family, as we start going to school we become a part of society; here we learn how to cooperate with other people, to be tolerant, patient (trpezlivý), self-disciplined, hard-working (these qualities are necessary if we want to be successful), for some of us our teachers became our role models

**CELEBRITIES:** role models mostly among teenagers, they love music, movies, sport – they choose people they read about in newspapers and magazines – **pop singers, movie stars, famous sportsmen**. Young people idolize them; try to imitate them in clothing, make-up, hairstyle, and lifestyle. Famous personalities influence young generation a lot, negatively  (drugs, alcohol addiction, eccentric/wild behaviour, no respect – we become selfish, unhelpful, rude, mean, drug addict or alcohol addict)  and positively (hard-working to achieve success, give performances and concerts to raise money for charities, help starving people, people suffering from various diseases such as AIDS people natural disasters or famine (hlad, hladomor)…)

**LITERALY HEROES:** found in literary works (stories, novels), most literary heroes are people with high moral standards with whom readers can identify and whose example they may follow. Apart from real, existing heroes there are also fictional heroes –heroes from books, films, plays. Book characters often become idols admired by generations of readers. Every national literature has such idols. When a book is filmed, they can become film heroes. In modern movies, many heroes are charismatic and are adored by viewers. Eomen like handsome, brave male heroes; men like attractive female heroes. In some films, heroes are ordinary people who try to overcome obstacles (prekonať prekážky) in their lives and often change during the story. People can identify with them because they are realistic and they remind them (pripomínajú im) of their own lives. Through these characters they can understand life better. Some heroes, mostly in science fiction or action films, possess superhuman characteristics. This is very attractive for children and the young. There are heroes who are very violent (násilnícky) and consider (považujú) violence (násilie) a way to solve (za spôsob riešenia) all problems. Adults criticise violent heroes from the movies and computer games and say that violence has a very negative impact on their children. They can easily identify themselves with these heroes and start to behave (začať sa správať) in a similar way (podobným spôsobomň. Many crimes have been commited on the basis of such films. EXAMPLE: Božena Nemcová – Babička – Grandmamma, about simply Czech woman, she comes to help her daughter with growing up of 4 grandchildren and with household works. She is intelligent, clever, has experience, every time good mood, helps with a will, she loves nature, work, habits and traditions…

**EVERYDAY HEROES:** we can find in our daily life – **lifeguards** (plavčíci)**, fire-fighters** (požiarnici)**, doctors, soldiers** (vojaci)… - brave, do not hesitate do risk life and help victims (obetiam) of natural and man-made disasters (earthquake (zemetrasenie), floods (povodne), drought (sucho), war), they have courage and high moral standards(morálne normy). It can be absolutely simple person, real heroine was also **mother Teresa** (she helped poor and ill people in India for most of her life). People who have difficult jobs such as lifeguards, soldiers, fire-fighters, are heroes for many people because they are brave and do not hesitate to risk their live. Their courage and high moral standards make them excellent role models and therefore no one should be afraid to follow them. Every year, we hear about people who have saved somebody’s life or did some other brave act that needed a lot of courage /karidž/ (odvahy). They saved people who nearly drowned (utopili sa) or were injured (boli zranení) in a car accident (dopravnej /eksident/ nehode, they gave blood or performed a very difficult surgery (vykonali veľmi zložitú operáciu). In our country, every year, one of these heroes is awarded for „the bravest (najstatočnejší) act of the year“.

**MY ROLE-MODEL:** who, why, some info about him/her, his/her positive and negative character features
**Positive features - virtues:** sincere (úprimný), kind (milý), tactful (ohľaduplný), grateful (vďačný), optimistic, sociable (spoločenský), helpful (ochotný), honest (čestný), brave (odvážny), responsible (zodpovendný), reliable (spoľahlivý), hard-working, generous (štedrý), hospitable (pohostinný), attentive (pozorný, všímavý), faithful (verný), dutiful (svedomitý), honest (čestný), polite (zdvorilý)...
**Negative features – vices:** deceitful (klamársky), mean (lakomý), cheeky (drzý), stubborn (tvrdohlavý), envious (závistlivý), jealous (žiarlivý), treacherous (nespoľahlivý, klamný, zradný, zákerný), rude (hrubý), dishonest (nečestný), impolite (nezdvorilý)...