

If one wants to understand Russia and its people, one should read Dostoevsky, watch Tarkovsky and look at Chagall's work. Literature and Art are essential in appreciating any culture, and a true understanding is impossible without language. I am passionate about literature and film and I want to study language through these subjects. In all these art forms the question occurs: how does one use language to create something beautiful and meaningful? This leads one from everyday situations to academic disciplines.

A great man once said, the more languages one speaks, the more lives one has. I have been trying to accomplish this. Beside my native tongue, Hungarian, I am fluent in English and German, and I speak some French. To deepen my knowledge of these languages, I took part in three short exchange programmes, visiting the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. To cultivate my native tongue, I participated in a school rhetoric competition.

At 13 I wrote my first poem in Hungarian. Poetry helped me express my thoughts using figures of speech, it enriched my soul, and enabled me to play with my love of language. Writing poetry is a way to explore and dig deeper in creating beauty and meaning through language. However, my poems were not written to languish in a drawer, I entered a Hungarian Creative Writing Competition and received an award. I published a book of poetry in 2017 and edited an anthology with other young poets in 2018. To learn more about the language and forms of poetry I translated poems by a number of poets, including Langston Hughes and Warsan Shire. I learned how to read at the age of five and started to devour stories immediately. The authentic representation of the many facets of human nature has always been a source of immense intrigue for me. I am fascinated by the ways in which authors like Alexander Pushkin, Franz Kafka, William Golding and F. Scott Fitzgerald portray humanity and human nature in their sharply drawn characters. For me, it is intriguing to observe a complex character and assemble the personality, layer by layer. I am also interested in satires containing dark, real-life topics, such as in *'Breakfast of Champions'*, where Kurt Vonnegut portrays mental illness and makes fair point on the important questions of life with the use of dark, grotesque humour.

Like a good novel, film is also capable of depicting human nature. Its psychology or philosophy add meaning to beautiful images. A favourite is Francois Truffaut's *'400 Blows'*, a Freudian interpretation of the existentialist worldview. It is also satisfying for me, when a film has some literary connections, like Yorgos Lanthimos' *'The Killing of a Sacred Deer'*, which draws influence from ancient mythology. Furthermore, I enjoy films dealing with the harsh reality of our society (Ken Loach's works), but also comedies of abstract humour (Monty Python).

As a lover of literature, theatre is a thrilling place. My eclectic taste ranges from the moral questioning of Sophocles' *'Antigone'* to psychological exploration in Shakespeare's *'Hamlet'*, from church criticism in John Patrick Shanley's *'Doubt'* to the ironic comedies of Tom Stoppard and Martin McDonagh. As far as theatre goes, I am more than just an observer. One of my plays, written with the assistance of my teacher, was staged by our school theatre group, in which I acted as well.

In 2017, I was offered a place at the Milestone Institute, a selective centre of advanced study for talented students. There I have enjoyed participating in modules on literature, philosophy, linguistics and art history, all taught in English. I also volunteered to read for a disabled person. I want to study in the UK because it offers a thriving cultural life for the lovers of language, literature and film, and is the best place to observe and contribute to the mosaic of cultures.