

## **B) BRALNO RAZUMEVANJE**

### **1. naloga**

Preberi besedilo o nenavadnih pismih. Odgovori na vprašanja z **NAJVEČ PETIMI** besedami. Oglej si primer 0, ki je že rešen.

### **DEAR JULIET...**

Every year, thousands of letters arrive in Verona, Italy, simply addressed to 'Romeo and Juliet' or just 'Juliet'. Nobody seems to mind that the unfortunate lovers of William Shakespeare's famous play do not really exist, and if they once did, are long dead now. All of them pour out their feelings, asking Juliet for advice about affairs of the heart. The letters come from all over the world. But the amazing thing is that they all get replies.



The Juliet Club answers over 5,000 letters a year, from a tiny office in the middle of Verona. Thousands of people all around the world tell Juliet their story. Giulio Tamassia, President of the Club, passed away in 2018, but his daughter, Giovanna, continues his work with a team of helpers and translators to answer letters from lovers and would-be lovers from all over the world. The majority of the letters are written by the Americans and the French followed by the Turks, the Chinese, and the Russians but only a few by the Germans and the British.

The Club began in 1937 when a lovesick Englishman addressed the first recorded letter to 'Juliet, Verona'. His letter received a reply from a kind-hearted man called Signor Solimani, who was the guardian of Juliet's tomb. He wrote as if he was Juliet's secretary, and this began a tradition which heartbroken, lovesick, abandoned, confused and even happy lovers everywhere have continued ever since. Over the years, responsibility for the Club was taken up by various generous-spirited romantics until Signor Tamassia took on the job in 1989. The Club is partly funded by the local council.

What kind of letters do they get? Letters from the Turks are often straightforward. They complain that they can't get a bus to the next village to see their boyfriend or girlfriend – that sort of thing. The French always seem to have the most complex problems. Sometimes the problems seem to have no solutions. What could anyone suggest to the young Lebanese woman who wrote: "I cannot seem to find my Romeo. The problem is that, with the wars and economic problems, all the ambitious men have left for America or Europe. I am not the only Juliet who is left waiting – there are twelve women for every man in Lebanon."

Then there was the young girl from Rome who saw her boyfriend from Milan only at the weekends; and the twenty-two-year old French girl who wondered whether it was normal to find her boyfriend incredibly boring and wanted to know what true love was like.

In our technological era, dominated by instant messages that have no time, nor space (text messages, emails, WhatsApp, etc.), hand-written letters are still the preferred way to express feelings. There are still thousands of people in all countries that take a pen and a sheet of paper in order to write to Juliet. Perhaps Juliet really would know all the answers. It seems the world is no easier for lovers than it was when she left it.

0. What are the letters about?

***Affairs of the heart.*** \_\_\_\_\_

1. How many letters remain unanswered?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who writes letters in the name of Juliet?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which nations rarely write letters to Juliet?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Who did Signor Solimani pretend to be?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Where does some of the money for the Club come from?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How is the letter from Rome similar to the ones from Turkey?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How are most letters written to Juliet?

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(7 točk)



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