

**Reference 1:** The four Polish Nobel Awarded writers: Henryk Sienkiewicz (1905), Władysław Reymont (1924), Czesław Miłosz (1980), Wisława Szymborska (1996).

**Reference 2:** Czesław Miłosz, “*Polish literature focused more on drama and the poetic expression of the self than on fiction (which dominated the English-speaking world). The reasons find their roots on the historical circumstances of the nation.*”

**Reference 3:** - Rational periods (knowledge): Antiquity, Renaissance (1500-1620), Age of Enlightenment (1770-1822), Positivism (1864- 1900), Inter-war period (1918-1939)

- Irrational periods (beliefs and feelings): Middle-Ages (966- 1499), Baroque (1620-1764), Romanticism (1822-1864), Young Poland (1900-1914).

**Reference 4:** Gallus Anonymus, *Cronica et gesta ducum sive principum Polonorum* (The Acts of the Princes of the Polish people)

**Reference 5:** *Bogurodzica* (God’s mother), a hymn to the glory of Virgin Mary, written down in the 15th century.

**Reference 6:** Mikołaj Rej or Mikołaj Rey of Nagłowice (February 4, 1505–between September 8 and October 5, 1569) was a leading Polish poet and prose writer of the Renaissance, as well as a politician and musician. He was the first Polish author to write exclusively in the Polish language, and is considered (with Biernat of Lublin and Jan Kochanowski), to be one of the founders of Polish literary language and literature

**Reference 6:** The Polish Baroque’s literature began in 1620 and ended in 1764.

**Reference 7:** The Polish Age of Enlightenment began around 1770 and reached its apotheosis during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century under the reign of the last king of Poland, Stanisław August Poniatowski. It ended in 1822.

**Reference 8:** Ignacy Krasicki (1735–1801). Nicknamed “the Prince of Poets” or the Polish La Fontaine, he was the author of *The Adventures of Nicolas Doswiadczyński* (*Mikołaja Doświadczyńskiego przypadki*), very first novel written in Polish.

**Reference 9:** Jan Potocki (1761–1815), a Pole of noble birth. An Egyptologist, linguist and explorer, his travelling memoirs made him very famous in Poland and across Europe where he is first and foremost known for his novel, *Le Manuscrit trouvé à Saragosse*.

**Reference 10:** Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855) was the greatest Polish poet and leader of the Romantic period. Its *Poezje* (2 vols., 1822-1823; "Poetry") was the first major literary event of the day. In his second volume were included in Parts II and IV of *Dziady* (*The ancestors of Eve*), in which he combines folklore and mystical atmosphere to create a new kind of romantic tragedy. The greatest works of Mickiewicz were written after 1824 when he was deported to Russia for his revolutionary activities of student and comprised *Sonety Krymskie* (1826 *Sonnets from the Crimea*), a third part visionary *Dziady* (1832), a Messianic interpretation of the past in Poland and its future destiny *Księgi Narodu polskiego i pielgrzymstwa polskiego* (1832 *Books of the Polish Nation and the Polish Pilgrimage*), biblical prose, and an epic, *Pan Tadeusz* (1834 *Master Thaddeus*).

**Reference 11:** Poeta Wieszcz (le barde de la nation) is the spiritual leader of a nation. The three national poets who carry the title are Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Słowacki and Zygmunt Krasiński.

**Reference 12:** Henryk Sienkiewicz(1846-1916) was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his patriotic trilogy which inspired a new sense of hope. Without defeating the national saga *Pan Tadeusz*, Sienkiewicz’s *Trilogy* plays a great part in the Polish pantheon. The trilogy is made of: *Par le fer et par le feu* (1883-1884), *le Déluge* (1884-1886) and *Messire Wołodyjowski* (1887-1888). The author meant to contribute to the national Polish construction. As a conclusion to his long *Trilogy*, Sienkiewicz admitted having written in order to “warm up the hearts”.

**Reference 13:** Czesław Miłosz “*The mention of a glorious past was supposed to allow the reader to overcome the ordeals of sharing. The old Polish used by Sienkiewicz reminded them of the richness of Polish culture as fought by the Russians. The author also offered a patriotic ideal: the ‘pious Catholic soldier, in good health, with a spirit that was not cluttered up with too many thoughts but endowed with exceptional gifts for fencing, drinking and love.’*”

**Reference 14:** Sławomir Mrożek (Borzęcin, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1930 – Nice, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013) is a Polish dramatist and writer. In 1963 Mrożek emigrated to France and then further to Mexico. In 1996 he returned to Poland and settled in Kraków. In 2008 he moved back to France. He began writing plays in the late 1950s. His theatrical works belong to the genre of absurdist fiction, intended to shock the audience with non-realistic elements, political and historic references, distortion, and parody.

**Reference 15:** Mariusz Szczygieł (1966) is today an important figure of the Polish literary reportage. He is also a famous journalist. After high school, he studied at the Institute of Journalism and Political Science at the University of Warsaw .He worked for newspapers such as "Gazeta Wyborcza". He also had a television show "Na Każdy Temat" on the private channel Polsat, during six years.