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### Teaching Čapek's Drama: Language, History and Culture

Literature is a great resource to discover and experience the philosophy of the author, history of the time, and socio-cultural background, etc. besides just reading the plot of various literary texts, and Čapek's plays are great examples that demonstrate all these components from each of his literature.

Plays, which are categorized under the genre, "drama," are fully composed of dialogues, which not only help us practice extensive vocabulary, but also help us understand and develop sentences and writing styles effectively. Čapek especially had his own philosophy of language that leads him to combining genres and using various writing styles, lexicon, or dialects in order to write rich vocabulary and sentences in his plays. He had also mentioned that a language is not only a pure linguistic phenomenon, but also "a manifestation of particular people, human professions, types, groups, cultures, and come to that particular world-views," proving his keen interest in speech and language in terms of history and culture. Therefore, students will be able to approach Czech culture and history through the words and languages from Čapek's plays.

Since plays are written for theatre, each play includes several spaces in between their stories, which let readers or directors imagine and express the spaces by performing plays, movies, operas, etc. In particular, Čapek's socio-historical or philosophical themes lead students to have myriads of discussions, such as, "what do we think of eternal life," "human labor and machine civilization," or "war and peace."

This kind of learning style will become a good motivation for students to experience visual, literary, and performing arts activities, such as, performing plays at Česká Karvána (cultural event or festival). Also, this is a great method to understand the literature in terms of linguistic, historical, and cultural approach.