**Interview with Wisława Szymborska, Polish poetess and Nobel prize winner.**

**- When did you start writing poetry?**

- My first attempst were when I was only five or six years old. They were funny, very short rhymes which I composed alone or with the help of my family members. Since such a young age I enjoyed working with words.

**- But it is so difficult to persuade you to give interviews. Don't you like conversations?**

- I definietly prefer written forms of expressing myself. In my life I wrote hundred of letters to my friends, my loved one and I am better at saying things through writing. That's true, I am not fond of being interviewed. If someone wants to learn something about me, they should browse through my poetry**.**

**- Where do you get your ideas for your poems from?**

- They come from observing the world, its perplexity and paadoxes. I am a good observer, I believe. Maybe I am a little too sarcastic, but this is how I see the world aroud me. I am still curious of the world, I take interest in what I hear or see and I try to comment on it through my poems.

**- What do you think about people generally? In your peotry you are very critical.**

- I try to be distant and ironic. I am aware of the fact that people are very imperfect. I am also aware of my own faults and imperfections so I belive that being ironic makes things easier to swallow.

**- I know that you were very keen on reading and going to the cinema, as a child. What books and films did you enjoy?**

- As a little child I loved Andersen's stories with dwarfs and princesses where good values always won over bad ones. However, as I grew older I became a fan of Julius Verne's novels. I also loved films which starred Greta Garbo, Gary Cooper or Errol Flynn. The cinema was something which was extremely important to me. I even tried to write a few sreenplays, but they hadn't been good enough as they wer never published.

**- How did you react when you got the Nobel Prize for you literacy work?**

- Well, I simply didn't believe it.It was too good to be true. However, when I was made sure that I had been chosen by the comitee I was overjoyed! Next thing that came to my mind was the fact, that will have to travel to Stockholm in Sweden and I panicked!

**- Yes, I heard that you hate travelling. Why?**

- I just feel comfortable in the place where I live, that's it. When I travel, I have to have the round trip ticket, a packet of cigarettes and my favourite flask to drink tea anytime I want.

**- Are there any other things which you don't like?**

- Well, many. For exmple, I don't like visitors. Of course, I enjoy the company of my close friends, but I get anxious if I am visited by someone I don't know well.

**- What do you do then?**

- I ask my secretary to call me at a certain hour. I pick up the phone and pretend that this is something very important and I need to say goodbye to my guest. It always works.

**- I heard that once someone signed his poem with your signature and that poem was edited in a literacy magazine. How did you react?**

-Well, I was worried. Not only becuase the poem was clumsy, but because I was afraid that the real author may feel sad and disappointed that his surname was not published. I try to think about others, not about myself.

**- What are the three things you like the most?**

- Getting funny letters from my friends, cigarettes and my cat.

**- Thank you for the interview.**