

# *Janusz Korczak*

## **Who was he?**

His pen name was Hersz Goldszmit. He was also known as Old Doctor and Mister Doctor. Although he was born in a Jewish family, he became in later life an agnostic, who did not believe in forcing religion on children. He worked as a tutor after school, he studied medicine and finally became a pediatrician. In the meantime he wrote some books under a pseudonym - Janusz Korczak.

## **Who else was he?**

- a man who fought for childrens' rights in all his spheres of activity;

People were always limited with regard to their freedom and sense of equality between the races, genders and levels of a lifestyle. Firstly slaves and serfs had no rights to freedom. Then women suffer similar problem, but mostly about none chance to educate and to decide about themselves. The Woman Liberation Movement tried to establish equal rights and privileges for men and women. In this context, only children haven't been set free. That was Janusz Korczak's idea to help them fight for their privileges. Janusz Korczak was the one of advocates, spokesmen and real protectors of children's rights. Moreover, he was one of the first preachers of the idea "the child is an autonomous person, who has his own dignity, interests, needs and rights". According to his words "It is not that a child will become a human being, he is one already." he truly believed that children were fully fledged human beings. He also wanted the children to be treated and respected as they deserve to. Korczak

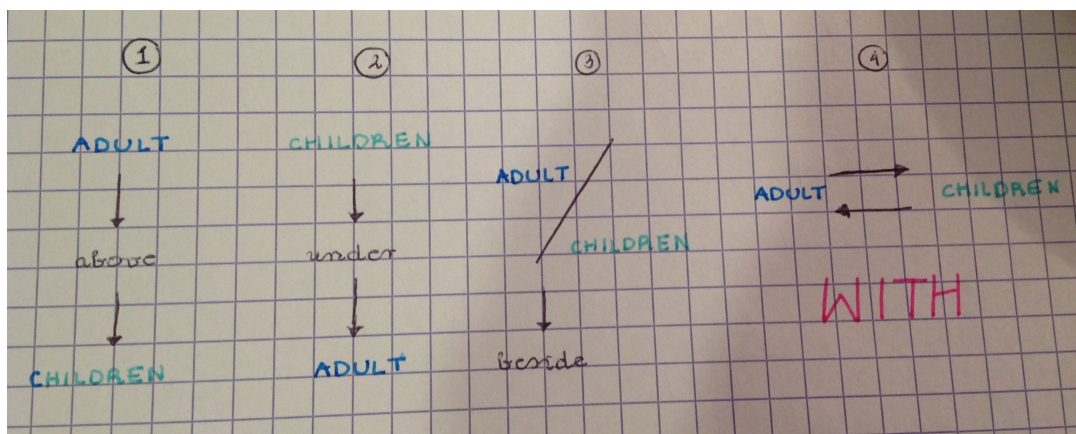
believed that children should be treated as their parents' partners, not as their own property. What is more, he came up with three basic rights:

1. The right of a child to his/her own death.
2. The right of a child to the present day.
3. The right of a child to be what he/she is.

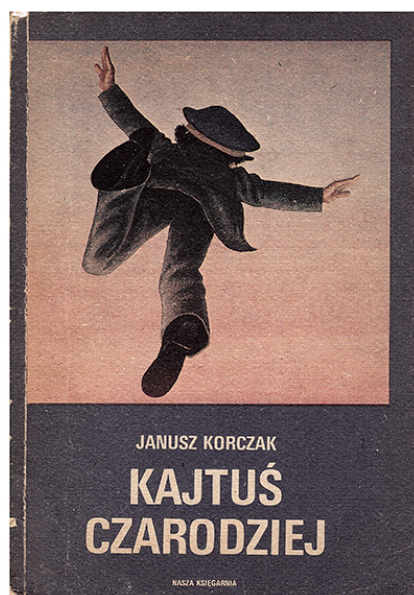
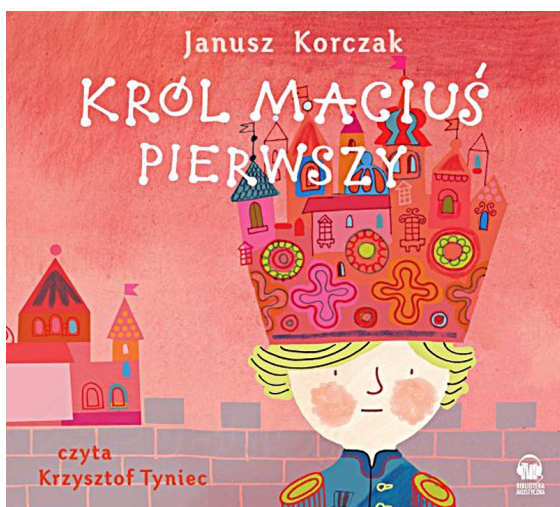
- a man who wanted to divide his wisdom about children's world and to improve the bonds between adults and children; he presented them in a total of 24 his books;

an example:

The module 4. is the best one. A real relationship with direct dialogue and respect. An adult discusses, speaks with children and cares about the little's opinion and views.



- a writer who had an unique bond with children - thanks to this he wrote a lot of children's novels; some of his novels were translated into 20 languages;



One of the most famous books written by Korczak - "King Matt the First" and "Kaytek the Wizard".

## His death

### Quotes:

"Children are not the people of tomorrow, but people today. They are entitled to be taken seriously. They have a right to be treated by adults with tenderness and respect, as equals. They should be allowed to grow into whoever they were meant to be - the unknown person inside each of them is the hope for the future."

"I exist not to be loved and admired, but to love and act. It is not the duty of those around me to love me. Rather, it is my duty to be concerned about the world, about man."

### Quotes about Janusz Korczak:

"For the world today, Janusz Korczak is a symbol of true religion and true morality." - Pope John Paul II



### Ciekawostki

- The writing pseudonym *Janusz Korczak* was originated from the book "Janusz Korczak and the Pretty Swordsweperlady" written by Józef Kraszewski.