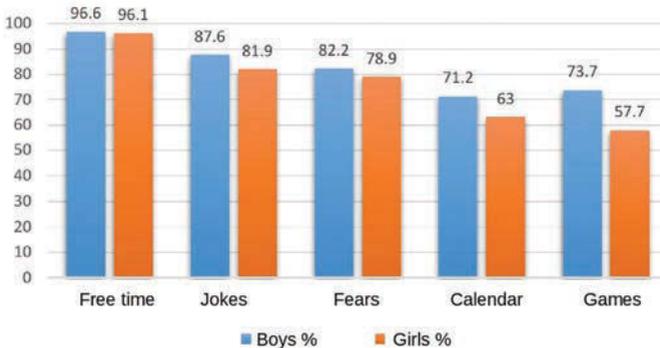


COLLECTING ACTION “SCHOOL LORE 2018” EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS

The all-Estonian school lore collecting action took place from 24 February to 24 May 2018, with a record number of participants: answers to questionnaires were sent by 3717 respondents and additionally material was collected in the form of ‘pupil to pupil’ interviews. Answers were expected from the pupils of the 4th to 12th grades (incl. those from vocational schools), and most of them answered electronically. In addition to Estonian and Russian-language schools in Estonia, some answers were also sent from Estonian schools abroad (mainly Finland).

The patron of the project, initiated by the Department of Folkloristics of the Estonian Literary Museum, was the Tartu City Writer Mika Keränen, and “School lore 2018” was recognised as an event of the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

Schoolchildren were more prone to answer questions about names (nick-names, pets’ names), leisure time, fandom, as well as fears and protective beliefs.



Participation rates by topics. Statistica Joonas Tomingas 2018.

As could be expected, the most popular holidays in Estonian homes are Midsummer Day and Christmas; birthday celebrations tend to decline in importance. The descriptions of school traditions involved fascinating local traditions and intertwining with older lore.

In the answers about games played, many past favourites were highlighted; however, in comparison to the previous collection action in 2007, the importance of computer games had considerably increased.

The fears brought out were a mixture of psychological, real life, and supernatural fears, with strong media influence as could be expected.

The general atmosphere of the material was friendly and positive. Although pupils described several fears, they were also aware of either realistic or supernatural ways for fighting them (with the help of protective spirits and items, charms, positive autosuggestion, supportive kin). So the obtained material yielded a vivid picture of today's youngsters' thoughts, feelings, and beliefs, resulting in an expressive document of the era, offering valuable material also to future researchers.

Reet Hiimäe