**MATH READING**   
**THE STORY OF THE GREATEST CROATIAN MATHEMATICIAN**

Everyone who had a chance to listen to lectures by professor Zvonimir Janko, would agree that he was the rare one who would teach serious and complicated content through stories. The story he would tell most often is the group theory. But it was not those groups that came to your mind right now. Those are special math groups. If you ask the math students what is the most difficult part of math, many of them would surely answer that group theory was the most demanding. But not for professor Janko.

This year professor Janko left us so we decided to tell a short story about who we believe was greatest Croatian mathematician.

Zvonimir Janko was born in1932 in Bjelovar where he finished his primary school and high school. He graduated in 1956 from the faculty of Science and Mathematics in Zagreb. Due to political reasons, he wasn't allowed to work at the University. Therefore, he worked in Gymnasium in Široki Brijeg, until he got his doctorate. He received his Ph.D. in math in Zagreb in 1961. From 1962 to 1968 he worked in Australia, and he spent the period from 1698 to 1972 in the USA. During the last 28 years of his career, he lived and worked in Germany, Heidelberg.

Even though he was a mathematician, professor Janko became famous for his discoveries. What could be discovered by a mathematician? His most important discoveries are sporadic simple groups, today known as Janko groups. He was only 33 years old when he discovered his first sporadic group. Professor Janko also had a few big discoveries in the field of math known as combinatorics. He discovered new math structures. He was also a mentor to numerous Croatian mathematicians who are now active members of Croatian mathematics community.

Since he returned to Europe in 1972, he would visit Croatia regularly and gladly accepted the invitations to give lectures.

QUESTIONS (AFTER TEACHING TIMELINE LESSON):

1. How old was professor Janko when he died?
2. In what century was professor Janko born?
3. How long did professor Janko work in Široki Brijeg?
4. How long did professor Janko live outside Europe?
5. The last sporadic group was discovered by professor Janko, eleven years after he discovered his first group. What year did professor Janko discover his last sporadic group?