

VEĽKÝ ÚSPECH!

Finálové celo slovenské kolo Jazykového kvetu 2022 v kategórii vlastná tvorba sa konalo v termíne 12. -25. marca online formou.

Pavína Synaková, žiačka 3.C. triedy, dňa 25. marca 2022 získala **3. miesto** v kategórii vlastná tvorba s poviedkou **Spirits of the forest**.

Vít'azke srdečne blahoželáme!



◆ JAZYKOVÝ KVET ◆ LANGUAGE FLOWER ◆ FLOR DE IDIOMAS ◆ SPRACHBLUME ◆
◆ FLEUR DES LANGUES ◆ FLORE DI LINGUAS ◆ ЯЗЫКОВОЙ ЦВЕТOK ◆

DIPLOM - DIPLOMA

udelený | presented to

Pavína Synaková

SOŠP. Turčianske Teplice

za **3.** miesto v kategórii | for the **3rd** place in the category

I. II. III. | English Deutsch русский язык español français italiano slovenčina SFF INSLOGERO

ŤUKNI: poviedková tvorba | writing short stories ~ Bilingválna kat.: nie / áno

Celoslovenské finále | National Finals: 25. 03. 2022

[Signature]
Predsedníčka celoštátnej odbornej komisie
Chairperson of the National Expert Committee

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Člen poroty | Member of the Jury

MŠVVaŠ: 2017/13972-2-10B0 | IALFAC140901-LP-169
International Association of Language Fans | www.jazykovykvet.sk | www.jazykovykvet.sk | efd: 2201JK/TFK
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Vít'aznú poviedku si môžete prečítať tu:

Spirits of the forest

It was a summer evening of a year - long gone and forgotten. The sun was slowly setting, and a cold breeze was hit the young men's faces and hands, reddening their knuckles. They were struggling to believe that it was summer, the supposedly warmest of all seasons, considering the temperature was nearing seven degrees.

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“Hurry up, it's getting dark, and I don't want to get stuck in the middle of nowhere at night! The youngest of the three, Theo, complained in an annoyed tone. He wasn't part of their group for too long, considering he was a few years younger than the other two boys, who used to be classmates when they were younger. His brother, Simon, was the calmest and most collected. Knowing what to say and do was, without the doubt, his most admirable quality, and the biggest reason for Theo to look up to him. Later the brothers moved away, only for Simon to reconnect with his old childhood best friend years later, only days before this trip.

“We’re almost there. It’s just behind this hill. “This conversation was going on for about an hour now, and no one was happy about it. The oldest of the three, Simon, looked beyond confused at a map. Of course, his brother and a friend’s constant complaints and bickering about the stupidest things were not helpful. Nevertheless, Simon was sure they were close. And he would have sworn they’ve crossed this meadow at least twice now.

“Here! I see it! There’s light right across the river over there! “Older two quickly turned their heads around to look in the direction Theo was pointing at. Across the meadow, they could see what they assumed was a lantern in the forest.

“Well, what are we waiting for? Let’s move along, “Simon started walking towards the light in the woods, just wanting to feel the warmth of a fireplace finally. “Hurry up, it will start raining any minute now. “That was enough to make the others pick up their pace and try to catch up. But unfortunately, their steady walk was interrupted by a river. It seemed to be flowing steadily from the nearby mountains. They couldn’t see any bridge or even a plank that would help them cross the water.

“Any problems? “The youngest asked, not yet aware of the obstacle that stood before them. “Oh, that seems like a bit of a problem. “

“What? What are you talking about? Take your shoes and socks off and walk across. It’s just water. “Young man, who came up with the idea of this trip in the first place, already took off his shoes and stepped into the cold water, sharp rocks almost scratching the skin of his feet. After the other two saw that it was safe to cross the water, they joined him, trying to get to the other side as quickly as possible.

It was already almost dark by the time they reached the tree line. But they could see the light of a lantern gently flickering in the distance, showing them the way to a small cabin in the woods. Despite one of the boys insisting that they come here all the time with his family, the area looked completely untouched by human hands. Almost like no one’s been here at all. Or at least in a good while.

“Are you sure this is the right place? “Doubt could be heard in Theo’s voice, the words coming out shaky due to the frigid weather and the blatantly horror-like look of the cabin. But it wasn’t only him who felt uneasy. Both discomfort and nervousness were apparent on the other men’s faces.

“Let’s go in, gentlemen, shall we? “Right after the man with keys unlocked the old, creaky door, the other two followed him. The inside looked surprisingly cozy, though covered in dust and spiderwebs. The cabin was small, only made up of two rooms: the entrance hall and a big room with old creaky furniture and an old furnace.

They set all their belongings down next to one of the beds. They didn’t pack much, just enough to last them two nights. Then, when Simon went to light a fire in the furnace to warm them up in the cold weather, he noticed that there was not any wood anywhere inside the cabin.

“Is there any chopped wood around the cabin? “Simon turned to the man whose family supposedly owns the place.

The man hesitated slightly before answering. Is it worth it? Does he want to do this? Of course, but he will put himself in danger if he doesn’t. He could get hurt, die, or, worst of all, see Them.

They weren’t like anything else he’s ever seen. They were tall and towering over him by at least two meters. Large, black, raven-like beaks seemed to be making up Their entire faces, except for Their piercing, white eyes that almost looked like they were glowing in the forest’s darkness. Their bodies were usually made of what looked like smoke, but sometimes They would take on a tangible form, the texture of Their skin seemed to alternate between feathers and what looked like scales like the one snake had. Their presence always seemed to be accompanied by thick and heavy mist, making the air around challenging to breathe in. The temperature always got much lower whenever They

were active. Around them, the whole area also seemed to be affected by their presence. He's never seen one of Them up close, which is good because most people who do, don't live to tell the tale.

"Yeah, there is some wood outside, just a bit to the side of the cabin; you can't miss it. "And just like that, he sent one of his friends to what he knew was his inevitable demise. He tried to reason with himself. It's okay. It's okay. You haven't known Simon for that long to see how annoying he gets anyway. You're not going to miss him. No one would.

"Oh! I can go and get it! "Theo was already putting on a jacket and getting ready to bring wood inside, eager to be helpful. Before the startled man could say anything to try and stop him, the youngest boy was long gone. And he was never coming back.

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It's been almost fifteen minutes since Theo had left. They've already found him. There's no way it would take this long to bring the wood. They found him, and he's gone, and it's all his fault. Suddenly, his thoughts were interrupted by the loud humming of rain.

"I knew it was going to rain. Where is Theo, though? His clothes will be completely soaked, and he'll get sick again. "Simon sounded upset but worried at the same time. He cared about his little brother despite his annoyingly bubbly personality and witty remarks.

"No idea what's taking so long. He should be back by now. "He knew what was taking that long. But he didn't tell Simon. How could he say to him that he's led both to death to save his own life? "Maybe you should go check on him while I pack everything out, Simon. "And hopefully, while he's looking for Theo, he gets taken, making his job more manageable.

"Ok, let's go then. "He wanted both to go. He should've thought Simon would not want to go alone; he's always feared the dark. "You sure we should go together? I mean, we're just all going to get wet and sick and stuff. "He knew excuses were useless, but he still tried. At that moment, he got dragged by his hand outside.

"We're going together, you have no choice, my friend. "Friend. Simon just called him a friend. He could feel regret and guilt sinking into his stomach deeper and deeper. Despite the hesitation, he followed Simon outside, taking slow and unsure steps. Simon, though, didn't seem to be wasting any time and immediately went running around the cabin, lighting his way with his phone. He just stood there, watching the panic in his friends' eyes, and breathing increase progressively, doing nothing.

"Why are you just standing there? Please help me find him! "Simon's shouting was louder than his thoughts. He followed Simon, who ran in a random direction, breathing in the cold air and feeling the raindrops fall on his skin.

Eventually, they reached a point where Simon sharply stopped in his tracks, slipped on the mud covering the whole ground, and fell back, releasing a pained sound.

"What happened? "

"No! Don't go any further; there's a cliff here! "

A cliff? He didn't remember any ridges being around here. Well, he never really checked the map of the area too much; this was his first time being here.

While he was still stuck in his head, Simon managed to get up, stand near the cliff's edge, and call out his brother's name through tears. It was his chance, an opportunity he had been waiting for. His friend was standing at the cliff's edge, on slippery ground, with a lowered ability to see due to rain and tears. This would've been the perfect moment to push Simon off without anyone being suspicious of him.

Before he could even approach Simon, he noticed a familiar black cloud and multiple tiny white lights on the other side of the ravine. It was Them. They knew he couldn't do it himself. He took a step back as the smoke approached unsuspecting Simon, wrapped around his body, and dragged him down to where the ground was splitting. At first, he could hear all the birds in the forest flying away, escaping the threat, and then came silence. Not a sound to be heard anywhere around him. The rain had stopped, and the sky was clear. He fell to the ground; despair and relief took over his mind as he finally pushed out tear after tear. He was free.

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It's been years. He's old now. Every year, a new group of friends, paranormal investigators, or maybe even families occasionally stay at the cabin. The mysterious disappearances of this forest attracted a lot of media's attention, bringing more and more people to see the famous place of legends and unexplained mystery. Seeing new people always makes him wonder. What are the new people coming here like? Are they anything like the first people he brought there, Theo and Simon? Do they struggle to find their way here like they did all the years ago? He knows that in the end, none of it matters. He hands them the keys one day and finds them hanging neatly on a nail next to the door. They are still here. This forest belongs to Them. Like all those years ago, he leads them into the cabin to save himself. Yes, it was difficult at first, but the more danger he was in got a lot easier. Fear makes you do unspeakable things. But, he knows that this is the only way to keep harmony between the spirits of the forest and humans. And he will do everything to keep things balanced as long as his bloodline lives on.