

European Day of Languages

26 September 2021

SANJA ŠPOLJARIĆ SEP 24, 2021 11:20AM

European Day of languages

This is the work of students of 4th grade who studied national fairy tales and created these summaries.

Slovakia - The Three Golden Hairs of Grandfather Know All

Once upon a time, there was a king who took great delight in hunting. One day he followed a stag deep into the forest and lost his way. Night fell and the king came upon a clearing where a charcoal-burner had a cottage. He offered to pay him to lead him out of the forest. The charcoal-burner had to refuse because he couldn't leave his wife who was expecting the birth of a child that night. He told him to spend the night in the garret, and promised to guide him the next day. Later that night a son was born to a charcoal-burner. At midnight the king noticed a strange light in the room below him. He saw three old women standing over the baby. They were the Fates. The first two said that the baby shall encounter great dangers, but that he shall go safely through them all, and live long. The gift of the third old woman terrified the king – she gave him for wife his baby daughter born that night. In the morning the charcoal-burner woke up and saw that his wife died during the night. He didn't know how to take care of the child alone. Then the king came up with a plan to take the baby to look after him and to give a charcoal-burner enough money to keep him the rest of his life. Instead of taking care of the baby, he ordered one of his stewards to drown the baby in the river. But, the baby survived. A fisherman saw the basket floating down the river and saved the baby. He named him Plavachek, which means a little boy who has come floating on river. Years passed, and he grew into the handsomest youth in the whole countryside. One day the king happened to ride that way unattended. He came to the fisherman and asked him a drink of fresh water. Plavachek brought it to him and the king recognized him immediately. Then the king came up with a new plan. He sent him to carry the letter to the queen. He wrote that Plavachek is a

dangerous enemy and ordered to get rid of him before he return. But, on the way to palace, Plavachek lost his way. Then he met an old woman that appeared to be his godmother. She persuaded him to spend night with her and deliver the letter the next day. While he was asleep, she replaced the letters. The letter now stated that Plavachek and the princess should get married before the king returns. The next day the letter was delivered and the queen organized the wedding. Plavachek and the princess fell instantly in love. When the king came back, he flew into a violent rage at the queen. The queen showed him the letter and it looked exactly like his own. From Plavachek's description the king recognized his godmother as the one of the Fates. He looked at him thoughtfully and said that he can't expect to be his son-in-law for nothing. He sent him for three golden hairs of old Grandfather Knowitall because he thought it was an impossible task and that he would get rid of him that way. Plavachek traveled long and far and reached the black sea. There he saw a boat and an old ferryman. He explained to him where he was going and the ferryman told him if he promise to ask Grandfather Knowitall when his work will end, he will ferry him over. Plavachek promised and the ferryman took him across. Then he came to a great city that was in a state of failing. Before the city he met an old man with a staff in his hand who took him to the king. The king explained that they have an apple-tree here that used to bear apples of youth. But, for twenty years tree has borne no fruit. He promised if he asked Grandfather Knowitall about it he will reward him handsomely. Plavachek then reached another great city that was half in ruins. Not far from the city a man was burying his father. Their king also had a question for Grandfather Knowitall and he took Plavachek to him. Namely, there was a well that used to flow with the water of life that heals the sick and revives the dead. But, for twenty years now the well has gone dry. The king told him if he ask Grandfather Knowitall if there is help for them, he will reward him handsomely. Plavachek then came into the black forest where was the golden palace of Grandfather Knowitall. He entered and found nobody there but an old woman who, his godmother who was also the Grandfather Knowitall's mother. She explained him that her son is the bright Sun and decided to help him to get three golden

hair of Grandfather Knowitall and to ask him questions he had. She plucked his hair while he was asleep, and after each hair he woke up and she asked him one of the questions. She gave Plavachek the golden hairs and said that he would never see her again. He went home and on his way stopped in every town and gave them answers to their questions. In the first city the solution was to clean the well and get rid of the frog sitting at its spring. The king rewarded Plavachek with twelve white horses and with many gold and silver. In the other city the solution was to dig up the tree to its roots and kill the snake that was destroying it and replant the tree. For that answer he received twelve black horses from the king laden with as much riches as they could carry. Then Plavachek came to the ferryman. In order to stop being a ferryman he must hand over the oar to the next passenger and jump ashore. When he returned home, the king couldn't believe his eyes. He lost no time in starting out in quest of the apples of youth and the water of life. And he hasn't come back yet! So Plavachek, the charcoal-burner's son, became the king's son-in-law as the old Fate foretold and the king's still ferrying that boat across the black sea.

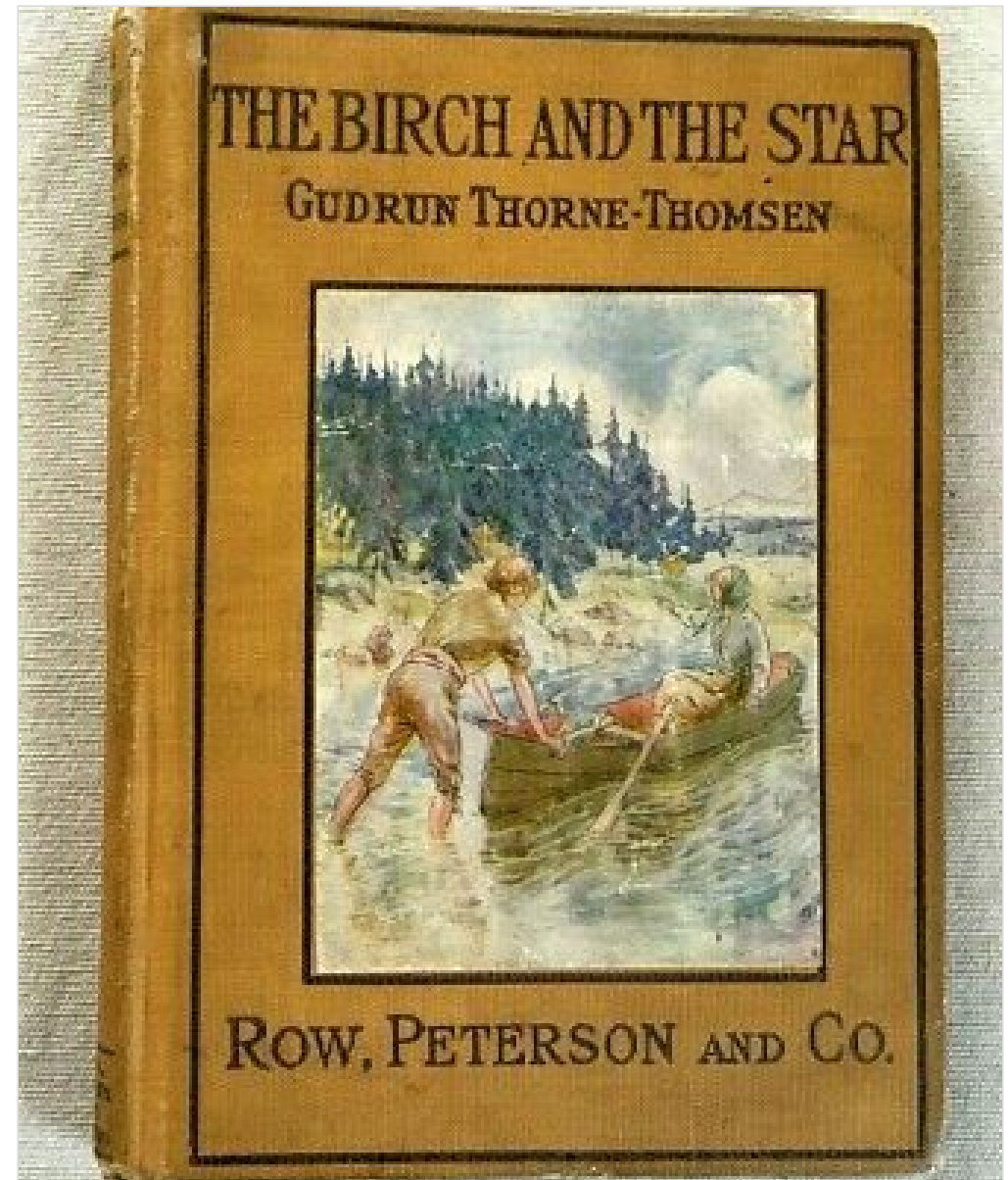
Ena Hršak, Domagoj Stubičar & Elena Bičanić, 4.a



Finland - The Birch and the Star

About two hundred years ago Finland had suffered greatly. There had been war; cities were burned, the harvest destroyed and thousands of people had died. Many families were separated. During the war a brother and sister were taken away to a far away and foreign land where they were taken in by friendly people who raised them. When the children heard that the war in Finland was over they decided they can't stay there and must return to their home, which they remembered only by a birch tree and a star that shined through the leaves. They set off and were guided home by 2 angels sent by God. With their help they were able to return home safely after years of walking.

Luka Ivanac, Lorena Boronjek, Marta Žurga



Portugal - The False Prince and the True

A king received news that his son, the prince, and some man had argued over tennis until

the other man struck the prince. The prince, though armed, had not returned the attack but only cried. The king was displeased with the prince's cowardice, but decreed that the young man would be brought to court for having attacked the heir to the throne, for which he was likely to die. He let him go wherever he wished in the city, under guard, for the fourteen days before his case was heard. The young man tried to get advice, but no one could advise him on how to escape, because he had struck the heir to the throne. An old woman told him she could save him if he would marry her. He rejected her offer, but on consideration, chased after her and agreed. She had him swear before a priest to marry her and then told him what to say. In court, the young man tells the king that the queen had, while he was away, taken the son of a quarryman and passed him off as her own son. Then, after her death, the king had met a woman and married her in secret, leaving her tokens, but one day he went off to quell a rebellion and while he was gone, his bride vanished. The young man could now tell him that his chamberlain, the bride's father, had recognized the tokens and vowed that the king would not have her until he was willing to own her as his queen. The young man had been born to her in secret. Now he had the tokens to show his true birth. The king owned him as his son. He told him how he had learned the truth and admitted he did not want to marry the old woman because she was old and his father had not chosen her for him. The king insisted that he must keep his promise, and the wedding was held. The prince tried to hunt and forget his old wife, but one day, in the night, he heard a noise and thought it was robbers. It proved to be a young and beautiful woman, who told him that she was his wife and a princess. A wicked fairy had cursed her to that form. A wizard had managed to have the spell break if a prince agreed to marry her as she was before her fifteenth birthday; then, as her fifteenth birthday approached, the wizard had discovered him and told her what she needed to know to save him.

Marijan Đuzel, Iva Vlatković i Ana Čurić, 4.b



Greece - Fairy Gardens

Fairy Gardens is a story about a shepherd named uncle Kostas. One day while relaxing on a hill he was taken by fairies and brought to the gardens of the fairies to the fairy queen. Once he was imprisoned, Kostas had to spend a year and a day with the fairy queen. After the time has passed he wished to go home so he asked the fairy queen to bring him back to the hill from which the fairies took him. The queen agreed, but only if Kostas found her golden vase and brought it back to her by noon that day. He looked everywhere for the vase but couldn't find it. Once Kostas lost all his hope the vase suddenly appeared from the sea. He brought it to the queen which then ordered the fairies to bring Kostas back. Before leaving the queen gave Kostas a present if he ever wished to go back. He thanked

the queen and the fairies brought him back to the hill they found him on a year ago. But Kostas had lost the queen's present and spend the rest of his life searching for it.

Ivan Haničar, Teo Orlić i Lorabel Milivojević



Croatia - Kraljevitch Marko

There was once a mother who gave birth to Kraljevitch Marko. She raised him and put him in a position to become a hero. As a boy he had to feed pigs. Since he was weak, his friends beat him and made him take care of their pigs as well. One day, when he was running from his friends, he found a baby lying in the sun in the field, he made her a shade with branches. A Vila came and was grateful that Marko helped her baby and told him that she would give him whatever he wanted. He wished that his friends would stop beating him. She made his wish come true. He was very strong and able to beat up the boys who beat him. They told his mother and she said that she never wanted to see Marko again.

Then he went from blacksmith to blacksmith and asked them to make him a sword and a mace, but he would pay them only if they were unbreakable. After the blacksmiths made him unbreakable weapons he cut off one of their hands. He returned to his mother to show her what a hero he was but she scolded him and told him to plough the fallows and pastures to make money. He listened to her and ran into the Turks while he was working. He knocked them all down without any weapons and took their gold. He gave the gold to his mother. After that, Marko met with any hero who tried the fortune of combat with him. That is how he met Black Arapin who wanted Emperor Soliman to give him his daughter or he would meet him in single combat. His daughter said that he should contact Kraljevitch Marko so that he could fight Arapin. Marko didn't want to fight him. But when he saw the Emperor's daughter in the garden behind the inn, he changed his mind. Marko beat Arapin in battle, he cut off his head and gave it to the girl. Then he proceeded on his way, and went about till firearms were invented. He met a shepherd shooting at birds, he held out his hand and told him to shoot him. The bullet went through his hand and Marko said he didn't want to live in a world where anybody could slay him. He went into a cavern, and lives there still at the present day.

Josip Martinčević, Jana Macinger i Lorena Zeks, 4.B



Netherlands - The Boy Who Wanted More Cheese

Kees van Bommel was a 12 years old boy from Holland. He was a good boy, obedient at home, always ready to work on the cow-farm, and diligent in school. But at the table he never had enough, Kees always wanted more cheese. He loved it so much, his mother declared his stomach had no bottom.

One summer's evening, he took a bit of cheese from each of his three sisters, which made his stomach feel heavy as lead. Kees went to bed up in the garret. Soon, he heard a voice calling him: "There's plenty of cheese. Come with us." Kees got out of the house, and suddenly he felt himself surrounded by the fairies. He felt very happy while dancing with them all night, until he got too tired. Then he tumbled down, tired out and fell asleep. Fairies were now waiting on him to bring him cheeses. With a golden knife, they sliced them off and fed him out of their own hands. It was delightful! After some time, he wanted to stop eating and rest a while. His jaws were tired and he gasped for breath. But the fairies would not let him stop. They dropped cheese down around him, until the piles threatened first to enclose him as with a wall, and then to overtop him. He screamed, but the fairies thought he was making music. At one moment, the heavy mass fell inwards upon him. Kees thought he would be crushed as flat as a Friesland cheese. But he wasn't! Kees woke up and felt his clothes. They were wet with dew. He sat up to look around. There were no fairies, but in his mouth was a bunch of grass which he had been chewing. Kees never told the story of his night with the fairies, he also didn't settle the question whether they left him because the cheese-house of his dream had fallen, or because daylight had come.

Dorian Bogati, Tin Ereš i Karla Vasiljević, 4.b



Denmark – The Brave Tin Soldier

There were once five-and-twenty tin soldiers, they were all exactly alike, except one, who had only one leg. The table was covered with various toys. The prettiest of them all was a tiny little lady, who was a dancer. She stretched out both her arms, and raised one of her legs so high, that the tin soldier could not see it at all. He thought they were the same, that she, like him, had only one leg and he thought that she was the perfect wife for him. That evening the tin soldier and the dancer remained in their places and he never took his eyes from her. At midnight, a little black goblin warned the tin soldier not to wish for what did not belong to him.

The next morning the tin soldier somehow fell out the window. After that he began to be followed by various troubles: the rain, falling into the drain in a paper boat, encounter with a rat, and at the end he was swallowed up by a great fish.

The fish had been caught, taken to the market and sold to the cook, who cut the soldier out with a large knife. She picked him up and carried him into the room. It was in the same room from the window he fell from. And there was his tiny little dancer. She still balanced herself on one leg, just like he did.

Suddenly the boy threw the tin soldier into the stove. That must have been the fault of the black goblin who lived in the snuff-box because the tin soldier did not listen to him. Tin soldier looked at the little lady, and she looked at him. Suddenly the door of the room flew open and the draught of air caught up the little dancer, she flew right into the stove by the side of the tin soldier. They melted down into a lump, and the next morning, when the maid servant took the ashes out of the stove, she found the tin soldier in the shape of a little tin heart. But of the little dancer remained nothing but the tinsel rose, which was burnt black as a cinder.

Nikolina Car, Matko Miklošević & Karla-Marija Mojzeš



Lithuania; Egle the Queen of Serpents

Once upon a time, farmer's daughters decided to go for an afternoon swim. After some time, when the youngest Egle started to put on her blouse, she realized that a serpent had crawled into it. The serpent promised to crawl out only if Egle agreed on marrying him. Devastated, Egle decided to make the promise. After three days all the serpents of that area gathered in their yard. Egle's father tried to trick them three times, but each time a coo-coo bird exposed them. When Egle finally went to the wedding the serpent turned into a young prince and took her to his underwater kingdom. After nine beautiful years, Egle longed for her homeland. The king decided to let her and the kids go only after she had completed several impossible tasks. On the shore she had to promise him that she would not tell anyone the secret call. After nine days at her old home, Egle went to the shore with the children. There her husband's ghost responded and told her that their youngest daughter had told the secret call to the villagers who later on killed him. Egle, in rage and disappointment, cursed her children and herself. The curse turned her daughter in a weeping willow, and her and her sons into oak, ash and birch.

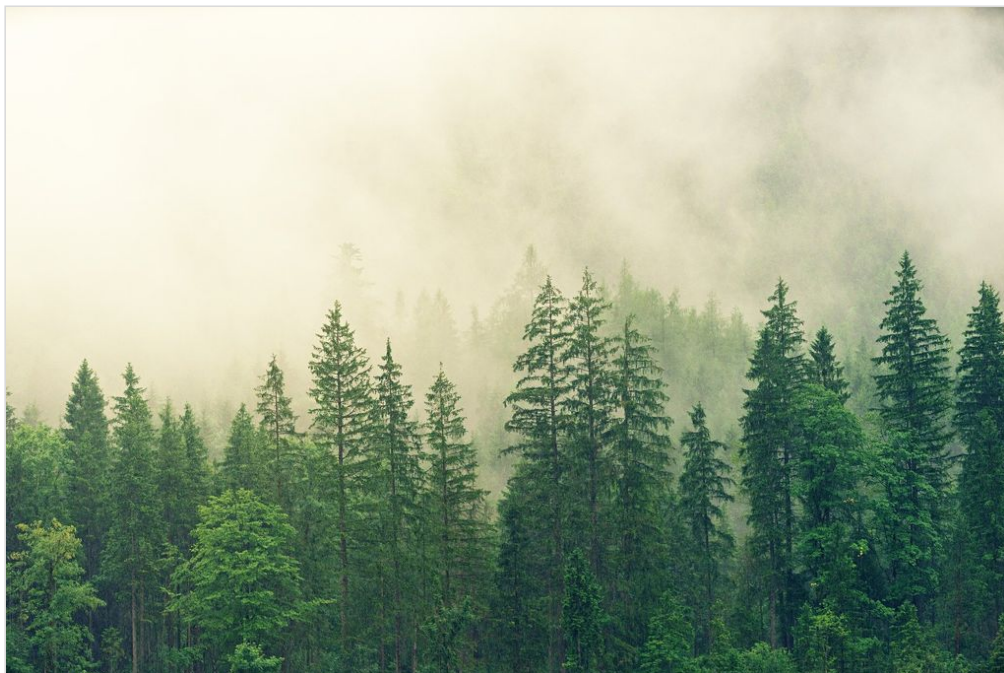
Lea Mustafi, Ivan Lukac i Patrik Hrgetić



Switzerland – The Singing Fir Tree

Once upon a time there was a master woodcarver who lived in the village of Reckingen in the canton of Valais. This region was known for its beautiful wooden carvings of saints that were placed in churches. Every evening, in the hour of prayer the church bell of Reckingen rang. One evening, in the hour of prayer the woodcarver heard beautiful singing. He noticed it came from the forest of Hohbach above the village. As the singing continued each night, the woodcarver went looking for the source of this singing. He discovered it came from the giant, old fir. He often visited the tree and became obsessed with it and even dreamt about it. He convinced other villagers to cut down the tree and let him make a beautiful carving with it. He took a huge block from the heart of the tree and began working on a statue of the Virgin Mary. People said he made Mary look beautiful and alive. When the statue was finished it was presented in the church. The priest put it at the altar. Suddenly the wooden statue of Mary started singing. That was the last time that the fir tree sang.

Ramona Mikolić, Tin Podnar & Ines Pucić



United Kingdom - "Tom Thumb"

Once upon a time, a farmer and his wife had their first child after many years of marriage. The boy was small like his father's thumb. His name was Tom Thumb. He had a lot of accidents because of his size and very often he barely survived. He fell in the pudding batter, he was swallowed by a cow, he was carried off by a raven and he was eaten by a fish. Also, he was condemned to be beheaded because he fell in the king's bowl. King forgave him that and on account of his wonderful feats of activity, Tom was knighted by the king, and went under the name of the renowned Sir Thomas Thumb. He was with the king and he got himself in a lot of dangerous situation. After all escapes from death, one day a large spider attacked Tom and killed him. After that the king raised a fine white marble monument over his grave.

Antonija Šimić, Niko Rastija, Ramona Šimić i Ivona Bošnjak



Czechia- "Clever Manka"

"Clever Manka" is story about a young women who helps her father win a heifer he was suppose to receive from his neighbor. The burgomaster gave the men three riddles, and the man who gave the best answers would win the heifer.

"Well, them, here is my riddle: What is the sweetest thing in the world? The richest thing is earth, for out of the earth come all the riches in the world." The burgomaster was so impressed with the poor peasant's answers that he asked the man who gave him his answers. When the peasant replied that his daughter Manka had helped him, Manka and her clever answers intrigued the burgomaster. The burgomaster gave the peasant ten eggs, and told him to tell Manka to have the eggs hatched by tomorrow. In response, Manka took the burgomaster a handful of millet the next day, and told him that if he could have the grain planted, grown, and harvested by the next day, then she would provide the ten chicks. If Manka would come to him "neither by day nor by night, neither riding nor walking, and neither dressed nor undressed", then the burgomaster would marry her. Manka agreed, and for a time they were happy.

One day, the burgomaster made an incorrect decision while solving a quarrel. The peasant pretended to fish in the road, and when he told the burgomaster that he was as likely to catch a fish in the dry road as a cart to give birth to a foal, the burgomaster realized his mistake. However, he also forced the man to expose Manka's role.

The burgomaster told Manka to return to her father's house, but Manka asked to stay until after dinner and to take her favorite thing from the house. As soon as the burgomaster fell asleep, Manka took him to her father's house. When the burgomaster woke, Manka told him what she had done, and the couple returned to their home. The burgomaster began to consult Manka in solving quarrels, and soon people came from across the country to have Manka and the burgomaster solve their fights.

Fran Bišćan, Ema Čapo & Tamara Zdelar



Belgium - Ups and Downs

It was very hot summer and there was no water to drink. While the fox was thinking how to find water he met she-goat. They started looking for water together. After some time fox found the well. Fox figured out the plan how they would get down to the water. Fox

got into one bucket and slowly went downward to the water. When he got down he drank water until he was full. Then the goat got into the second bucket and started going downwards while the fox was going up. When the fox got to the top he ran away and goat was stuck in the well. Goat was saved by the farmer but she couldn't see her kids anymore.

Anamarija Bilavčić, Dominik Kizivat, Ivona Bosec



Latvia – Pastaris and the Giant

Once upon a time a giant kidnapped a fisherman Pastaris. He carried him into a great palace and told him not to light the fire. Pastaris disobeyed him, which led up to him being left on a mountain top. After three days he climbed down and came upon four men standing around a horse. He helped them divide it fair way and they gave him magical goods. Those goods were bull hair, feather, fish scale and ant's leg. He used those items to kill a giant.

Natali Boroša, Dino Majstorović i Dominik Bogati



※※※※※