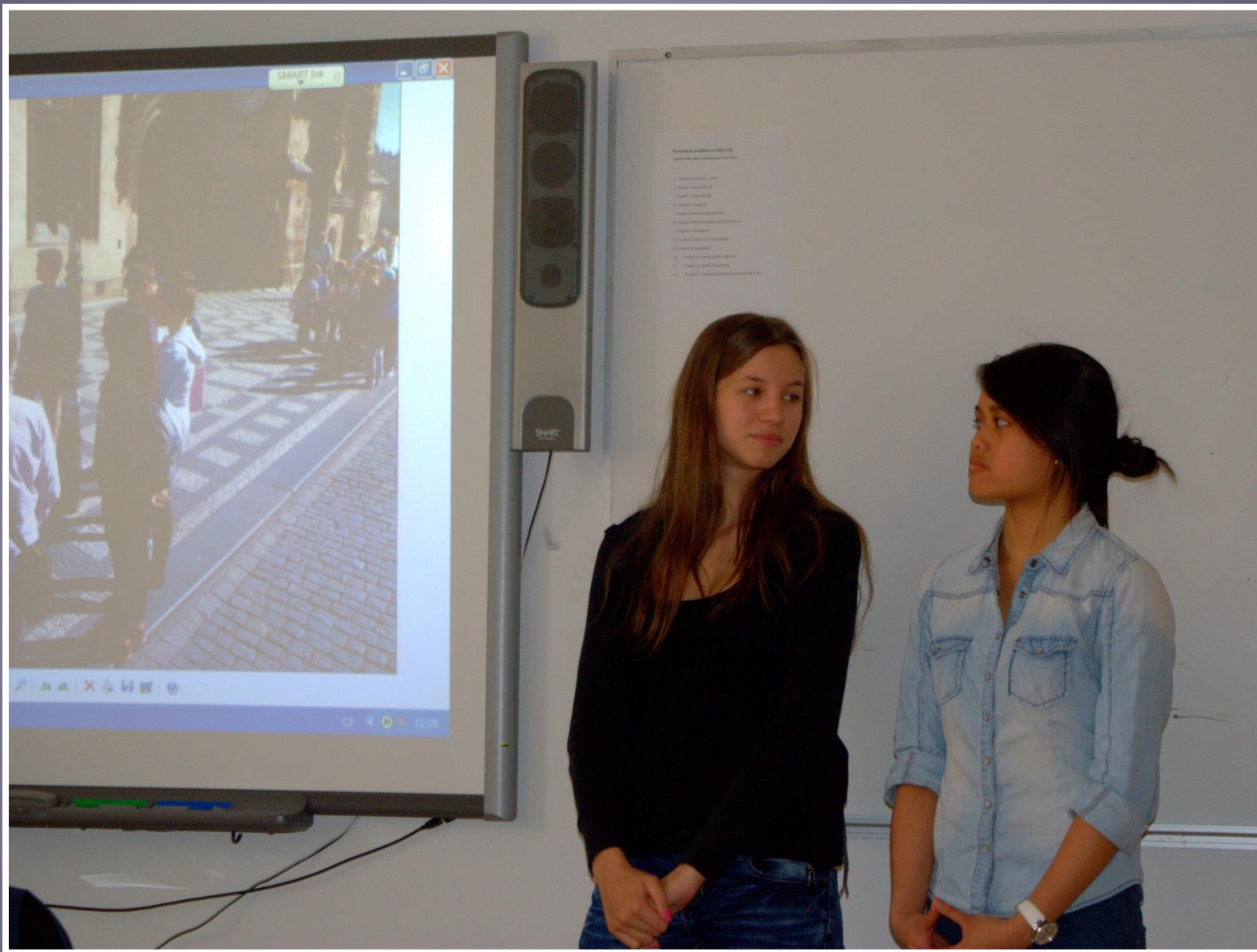




PROJEKT LEGENDY

GJP 2014 – projektový týden









Turk

Old Town in Prague has many legends which tell us about ghosts or thieves but in many of them motifs like love, jealousy and hatred appear as well.

For example this legend which takes place near Old Town square at the place called Ungelt.

It is said that there was a pub into which traders from all over the world came to sell their exotic goods. In this pub lived the innkeeper's daughter called Lydia. She was really beautiful, she had fair hair, red lips and rose cheeks. She also had a lot of suitors who courted her all the time.

One gloomy day one of the traders came to the pub. He was from Turkey and his name was Ibrahim. He sat to a table in the darkest corner of a corner and he said: "Give me a beer!" So Lydia brought him one and she charmed him with her beautiful smile. Although Lydia was trying to avoid his courtship at first, in the end she fell for him. They were secretly meeting in the cellar so that nobody could see them. After a few months they did not want to keep their love undercover and they told everyone the truth. The innkeeper reconciled with that very badly but in the end he wished them love because he wanted his only daughter to be happy.

...

One day Ibrahim asked if she will go to Turkey with him. She refused, saying she was afraid of travelling so far. "Ok so I will go alone to arrange some important matters." Lydia agreed: "I promise I will wait for you." she said to Ibrahim. He left the next morning and she waited for him. She waited for days, weeks, months, but there was no sign of Ibrahim and more and more suitors started appearing around Lydia. After a while she forgot about Ibrahim and she fell in love with someone else. One day she and her new love decided to get married and they started to prepare the wedding.

The wedding day has come and as ill luck would have it that this same day Ibrahim returned and he immediately started looking for Lydia. He went to the pub where she always lived but there he saw an announcement that she had a wedding that day. Ibrahim got terrified and he ran to the wedding. When he saw Lydia there he asked her to go with him for a small chat. She agreed and they went to a street near The Astronomical Clock. After a while the groom and others started to worry about her because she was not back. They started looking for her but it was like she vanished into thin air. After few years everybody forgot about her.

After few years one sunny day innkeeper send one of his servants into cellar for some bottles of wine. She was new to the pub and wasn't exactly sure where to look for the wine. All of a sudden, she collided with a large chest in the darkest corner of the cellar and the lid opened a little. She couldn't resist looking inside and.... was terrified by what she found! She screamed and ran up to tell everything to innkeeper. Everyone knew immediately what it was. Yes, it was Lydia and Ibrahim. The desperate man killed his love and then himself..



The house of death

Our story begins on a cold, dark evening when a baby cry was heard in one of houses near the Old Town Square. The child was born into one of the wealthy families that lived in that area. Both parents were very happy as it was their firstborn child and they celebrated until late night hours.

They named the child Matej, they took care of him and they treated him with love. Matej was growing up very quickly, and before they knew it, he was almost one year old.

One night in May, Matej's mother was preparing him for sleeping when she heard strange voices. It came to her mind that the voices must belong to merchants and she told the father to go and buy a loaf of bread so they would have something to eat. The father came down to the basement and opened the old front door.

He was blinded by the setting sun and it took a while before his eyes got used to the dim light. There were six tall men with cloaks pulled over their heads standing nearby. The tallest man stepped forward and approached the father. The then shadows of the dusk swallowed him and the whole street darkened.

The mother of Matej was getting worried, because the father wasn't coming back. She was curious, overcame her worries and descended to the street bellow. It was already dark and it took her a moment before she realised that there was a body lying in a pool of blood. The blood was blending with the dirt of the street. She screeched out and turned the body towards her. She was shocked by the sight, as the dead body was her husband's. She observed his wounds and then listened to his pulse. There was none. With tears rolling down her cheeks she shook her head and turned around when she heard a baby's cry from the upper rooms of the house.

With heavy heart she rushed out and ran upstairs. She realised the cry was Matej's and knew it was her duty to come to his aid. As she entered the room, her heart has stopped for a second and she stood speechless.

[20 years later...]

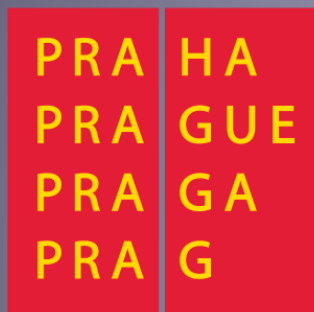
It was for the first time that Matej was allowed to leave China and travel abroad. After a long and exhausting journey throughout Europe, he finally decided to settle in the city of Prague. As he has already spent most of his money on the road, he had to look for shelter in the houses of the citizens. He came to an old house near the Old Town Square and knocked on the door. The door was opened by an old woman. The woman was a widow and gladly welcomed Matej to her house and allowed him to stay for as long as he wanted.

Matej fell in love with Prague and felt very comfortable. He spent his evenings with the old widow and slowly their friendship developed into love. Even though they were very happy together, the old woman was often sad. Matej realised that she was probably mourning because of her dead husband. He wanted to bring joy back to her life and decided to marry her.

They lived happily together, but his wife was curious about his past. The trouble was that Matej himself did not know as he lived with a group of nomads for as long as he could remember. Matej then realised that the only way to find out more about his past was to go back to China.



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



Praha & EU:
Investujeme do vaší
budoucnosti.
*Projekt OPPA
je spolufinancován
z Evropského
sociálního fondu.*

Projektový týden GJP.