

# ENJOY

ENGLISH JOURNAL FOR YOU

Vol. 2, No. 4

Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies

*What happened*  
WRAPPED IN GREEN  
STUDENTS' COMPETITION



**CREARTIVITY**  
POETIC CORNER  
FROM CREATIVE WRITING CLASSROOM

**INTERVIEW**  
WITH A CERTIFIED TRANSLATOR  
AND INTERPRETER

**PUBLISHED  
ONLINE**

*Reading Ready*  
Welcome to the Hunger Games!

*What the...?!*  
...or do you still believe human is  
the most intelligent creature?



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**ENJOY**

*Hello friends!*



First of all, thank you very much for reading our journal and do not forget to ENJOY it!

It has been two years since we published our first official issue. Time really flies, doesn't it? Summer has already started, we are a year older and some of us can boast with a new degree (either Master or Bachelor). I would like to congratulate to all our Master Degree graduates and I wish you good luck in the future. Of course, congrats belong to bachelors as well and I keep my fingers crossed for you in your further studies. I hope that you are satisfied with your final theses and state exams and everything turned out well. And you, the others, who have had a less stressful year, I believe that all your exams are successfully completed and you are enjoying the summer at full blast!

But let's come to the journal. In the 4th issue you can look forward to the section "What Happened", where you can taste a bit of our St. Patrick's Day celebration, a wonderful photographic report prepared by Andrea Pindric. Another event that took place at our department was *The National Conference of Student Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity* and the editorial team of EnJoY was there to write an article for you!

Next, the section CREartIVITY presents creative works of our students and I think we have some hidden talents and artistic souls among us! Our issue also offers an interview with a professional translator and interpreter, PhDr. Eva al-Absiová, PhD. For literature lovers, Michal Pigula prepared a book review, btw, who likes *The Hunger Games*?! And the icing on the cake, as usual, is the section "What the..." where Kitty Vyparinová collected for you the most significant stereotypes used along with different nationalities and cultures.

A special thanks belongs to Peter Kliment who made a wonderful graphic design of the issue and I personally thank you for your enthusiasm and support.

Lastly, I would like to thank my colleagues for their time and their great job, thank **YOU** the readers, we are so glad we can show you a piece of our work, and last but not least, thank you the teachers, without you we would have never got together and started to publish.

And now, the 4th issue, let's start!

*Michaela Kališová*



# WRAPPED IN GREEN:

## ST. PATRICK'S THROUGH PHOTOS



Around the world, on March 17, groups of smiling faces wear tones of green. This was also the case at the Faculty of Education, where multiple shades of green, the colour of happiness and optimism, dominated the halls. However, not only green could be visible, but also the two other elements of the Irish tricolour - white and orange. Students and teachers of the KLIŠ department gathered on this day and did their best to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the day of the patron saint of Ireland. It was already the fourth time that the whole department used this opportunity to free themselves from the day-to-day obligations, and showed that they know how to have fun. Showing that university can be a place of both education and entertainment has already become a tradition.

This time, however, the event started in a little untraditional way. The celebration was opened by our Irish friend and former teacher, Niall Kenny, who after saying some introductory and welcoming

words, asked everyone to go outside. Of course, not to go home! Students were asked to go out for an introductory photo shoot. A great number of students became living letters for a moment (as you can see on the title page). They lined up in such a way that they created the abbreviation of their department - KLIŠ. The cooperation between our photographers and the students went very well and, as a result, the department is now enriched by this beautiful and creative memory.



So let's recall the latest St. Patrick's celebration in the exact way as it started and through pictures!





After the introductory photo, the already “warmed up” students were ready for the festivity that followed. It took place in the vestibule of the Faculty of Education. Enthusiastic and highly creative students made sure that everything looked perfect and they made an effort to decorate the halls and the vestibule in the spirit of Ireland and St. Patrick. Decorations like balloons, ribbons, shamrocks, little green hats and many more made sure that everyone got in the St. Patrick’s-like mood and celebrated this day in Irish spirit.



Although St. Patrick’s Day is commemorated every year, each year students make up new ways to celebrate it and everyone participates in their own way. This year’s celebration offered everything that could express students’ talents and skills. Someone just watched; others photographed, helped with the decorations, organized the event, moderated, and the bravest ones took part in creating the mood of the celebration by singing, dancing, playing music, acting. Hosts also prepared multiple competitions that fit the style of this day and everyone could take part in them. Not only students but also the teachers were present and had fun.



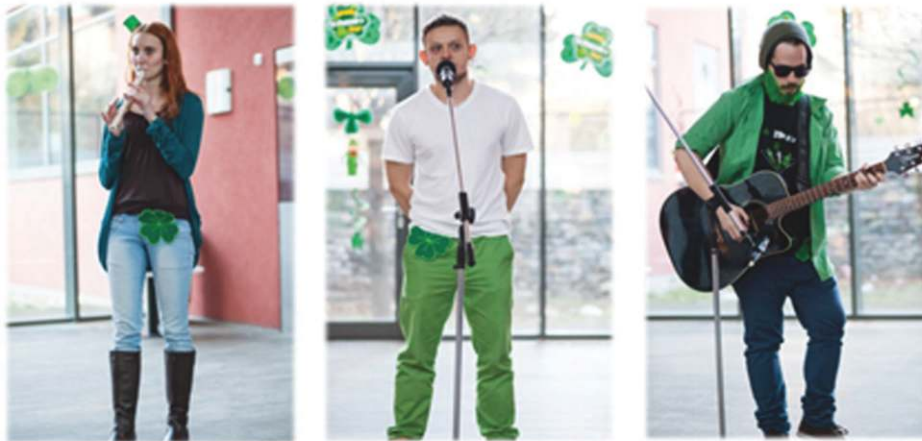
The head of the Department, Doc. Katerina Veselá, PhD. and her great sense of humour could not go unnoticed; she was wearing a sash saying “Kiss me, I’m Irish”.



*Doc. Katerina Veselá, PhD.*



The celebration kicked-off with the traditional Irish folk tune by Stanislav Pěčonka, Matúš Turčan and Zuzana Rosinská. Singing along with the sound of the guitar and the flute really flattered everyone's ears.



Young energetic dancers from DanceVersity Nitra showed their flexibility and liveliness through various disco choreographies.



Apart from the well-known St.Patrick's raffle, everyone present could take part in



competitions like face- painting of the Irish motifs, Irish culture mini quiz and hat dance in the Irish style.

Thanks to Martin Javiľak, both teachers and students could learn and try some dance moves in his group dance workshop.

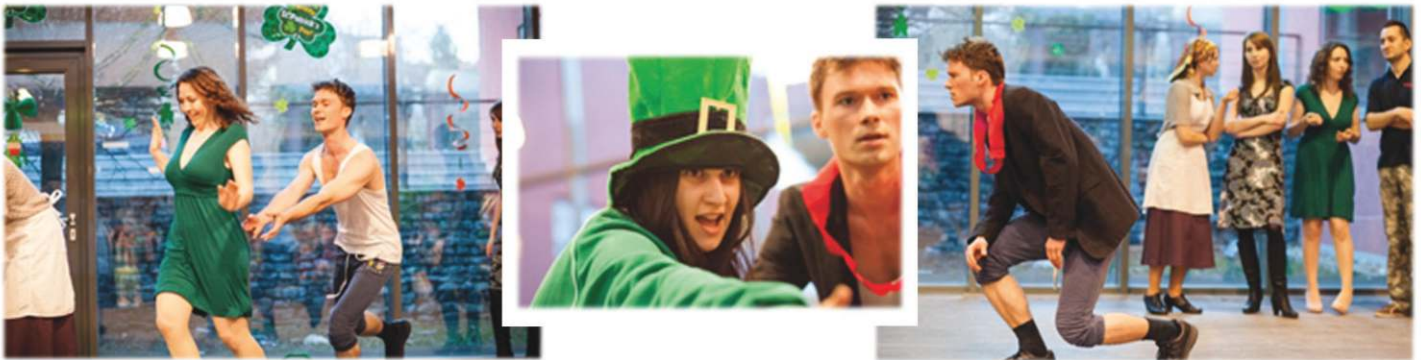
Alžbeta Blašková won the first place for the best green outfit.



Alžbeta Blašková



The central piece of the celebration was a spectacular short theatrical performance by the fourth year students. Tomáš Schneidgen, Csilla Hegedüsová, Alžbeta Blašková, Hana Červeňová, Silvia Vrtáková and Erik Köberling provided us with a great dose of laughter with the play *The Pot of Gold*.



Refreshments in the form of abounding green-coloured delicacies were, as usual, prepared by the attendees and the winner of the most original green treat-prize was Lucia Borbélyová with her taste-buds-stimulating cake.

Kristína Kušnířová spread her voice and stimulated everyone's audio senses. She sang covers of some of the most popular modern songs. Oxana Gogol' presented her musicality through singing and playing her own songs in an alternative-folk style.



The programme was followed by group photo shoots and the after-party to wrap up the event. Now what we are left with are only beautiful memories. It is important to point out that no piece of text or even a collection of photos can portray the exact mood of this day. The best way to keep it in our memories is to keep the tradition and commemorate this day at our department every year. Hopefully, we will gather again on March 17 next year.

Until then, Slán!

*Andrea Pindrić*  
Photo: Author



## THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STUDENT RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

On April 15, our department organized The National Conference of Student Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity. Besides the participants from our department, we were more than happy to welcome our colleagues from the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava.

The event was organized in two sections; the first one for Bachelor and the second for Master students. The students' presentations through which they presented their research results, were evaluated by the teachers from our department and also the teachers and researchers from other universities. One of the members of the Bachelor section evaluation committee was our honorable guest, Associate Professor, Natalia Burenina, PhD., the Head of the Foreign Languages Faculty, Mordovia State University, Saransk, Russia. The presentations were followed by in-depth discussions on every single topic. As suggested by PhDr. Ivana Žemberová, PhD., the chief organizer of the event, to decide on the best presentation was a challenging task to do but finally, both committees succeeded in coming to their conclusions. EnJoY would like to use the space that follows to introduce the winners in both sections:



### WINNERS OF THE BACHELOR SECTION:

1. **Milan Ivenz**, Nitra
2. **Klaudia Pauliková**, Nitra
3. **Kamila Hroncová**, Trnava and **Lenka Kraváriková**, Nitra

### WINNERS OF THE MASTER SECTION:

1. **Bibiána Nemečková**, Bc., Trnava
2. **Daniela Sorádová**, Bc., Nitra
3. **Dominika Adameová**, Bc., Nitra

The editorial team of EnJoY would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners. We are looking forward to meeting all of you next year.

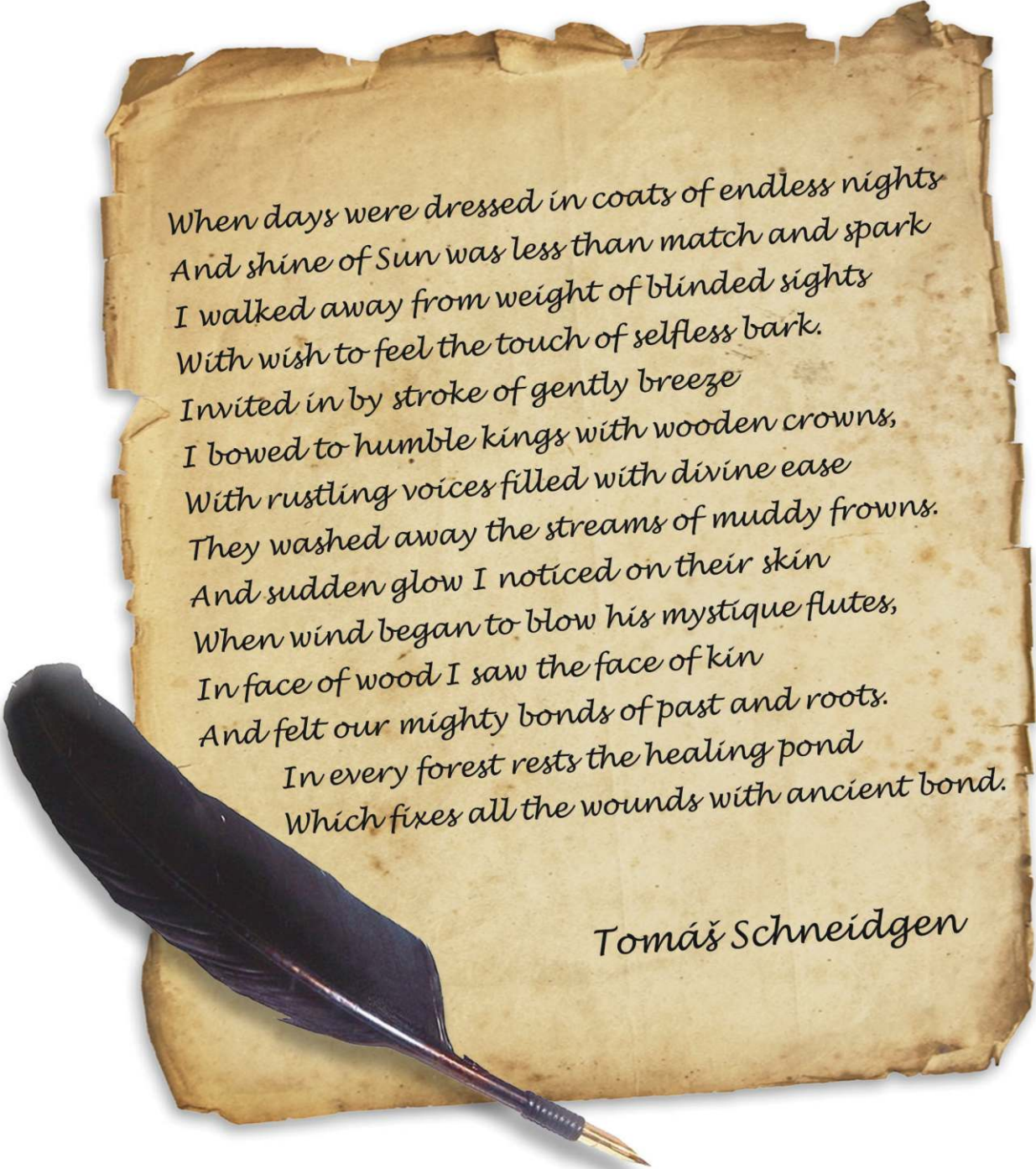
**EnJoY Editorial Team**

Photo: Michal Bodorík



# POETIC CORNER

Can a 21st century student of English language and literature compose a true Shakespearean sonnet in iambic pentameter? See below...



When days were dressed in coats of endless nights  
And shine of Sun was less than match and spark  
I walked away from weight of blinded sights  
With wish to feel the touch of selfless bark.  
Invited in by stroke of gently breeze  
I bowed to humble kings with wooden crowns,  
With rustling voices filled with divine ease  
They washed away the streams of muddy frowns.  
And sudden glow I noticed on their skin  
When wind began to blow his mystique flutes,  
In face of wood I saw the face of kin  
And felt our mighty bonds of past and roots.  
In every forest rests the healing pond  
Which fixes all the wounds with ancient bond.

Tomáš Schneidgen



## Fixed Idea

You look nice today  
so  
come in.

I'll lead you  
through a colourful staircase  
to my torture chamber.

I'll describe the tools  
and let you stroke the scars.

You'll thrust metal rings  
through your fearless skin  
and remain  
hanging in my garden  
under the falling stars.

In a goodbye-scrap  
I'll wish you  
.....  
„Good morning...”

*Tomáš Schneidgen*

## Few Years Later

Certainly, come...  
I'll be glad.

I'll be waiting  
with folded arms  
and new grin.

Perhaps  
we'll even laugh  
...separately.

I'll understand  
your scared sight  
but won't explain  
my frostbites.

I'll lead you to a face  
that you remind me  
and read a testament  
from the day  
I carved it  
to a grave ledger.

I'll show you a hut  
where I spend days  
and nights  
and if you'll be  
really curious  
I'll invite you in  
(please  
...don't be)

for your own good  
I will hope  
for your tears.

Certainly, come...  
I'll be glad.

*Tomáš Schneidgen*



## The Hidden Sense of Beauty

- Hey mate, how was your day?

- Well, are you familiar with those days, when one accepts the trickling of raindrops down the cheeks? However, due to circumstances, I did not enjoy it for long. On my way from the railway, approximately the half way home, just when I resigned myself to the wet drops on the lashes, in one of those calm, house sowed streets where the rose bushes stick out of every sixth fence with no fear of being ranked with the town, I walked by a little girl. Little girl with her head blessed with the golden curls and tiny hand in her mommy's hand. I'm not sure, whether it was the intervention of the street silence, consequence of her need to talk in company, or impatience to feel the presence of her room or new horizons, but exactly at the moment when her vision was able to catch the back of my neck, she asked: "Mommy, how many colours does the rainbow have?" Grateful to my sudden latitude, I turned and saw her wide open eyes filled with childish curiosity. The very same moment I fell in love with the rain and felt like embracing the little thing that will fly back to her planet B613 after holiday on Earth for sure. I did not, of course. I only, with my voice touching a whisper, responded: "As many as you wish. The Sun and the rain have infinite number of shades." Mild narrowing of her eyes and timid smile were sufficient reactions, and the mommy's stone from eyebrows to the chin I decided to ignore. There were no needs to struggle through the mud anymore. My head was dissolving in a rainbow, in which colours I was sliding home.

- ...are you feeling okay?

*Tomáš Schneidgen*



## FROM CREATIVE WRITING CLASSROOM

The students who took the Creative Writing Course with PhDr. Lucia Jechová, PhD., were asked to think of death in a poetic way. Scary? You don't have to be...

### *If I were a death...*

*If I were a DEATH I would make my best  
to help people realize I am not the one to fear.*

*I would go around the town and spread the cheer  
to make them believe I was always dear.*

*I would try to make them understand  
I am not the end.  
Even though the body fades  
their spirit never shades.*

*The one they should be fearing  
Is the life without a deeper meaning.*

*Lenka Kraváříková*

*If you're slim or you are fat  
it doesn't matter to me  
'cause I'm a death.  
You may hide or you may run  
for me it's just another fun.  
Either you are rich or poor  
you're just a number to me  
there is no such a thing as a fee.  
Feel free to be scared  
Either way you'll end up dead.*

*Matej Zelenák*



*If I were a death  
Dressed in a black  
Why? I don't know  
But definitely without love  
I wouldn't want to be scary  
And please don't worry  
Because I am able to carry  
Your soul and body  
Completely bloody  
When you finish story  
Without no sorry*

*And then I must be strong  
When listening to the song  
Composed by family and friends  
Praying to see again your face*

*If I were a death  
I'd wish for a date  
When I'd meet a mate  
Who will understand my fate  
That I am just a tool  
From one God's rule*

*Domínika Veróniová*

*If I were a death  
I would see everything  
Flames in a guilty mind  
Pain and way unfound  
I would try to bother you  
Till you'd be forgotten  
Nightmares whirling around  
Your body'd stay blind  
But spirit burns in flames  
So clear your mind and try to keep faith.  
Faith of God does not exist  
Put your hands down and clench your fists.  
I'm coming for you  
And for everyone.*

*Stanislav Pečonka*



If I were a death  
 I would look for the dead.  
 I would hide in the shadow  
 in front of your window.  
 My role is to find you  
 no matter how far are you.  
 Once when I got you  
 there is no escape from my barbeque.

*Martin Javiřak*

***And... can you imagine what would happen if you were a pen?***

If I were a pen  
 I would always write till the end.  
 Don't want to be small  
 don't want to be big  
 just good for the hand  
 perfectly ergonomic.  
 Soft for the fingers  
 but tough anyway  
 If I fall to the ground not break into pieces everywhere.  
 My mission would be to do my best  
 forget about peeping when writing the test.  
 I want to be out even at break  
 at lunch I'm always staying in bag.  
 Evenings are dark, but not for me  
 that is because I'm in hands of J.K.Rowling.

*Martin Javiřak*

If I were a pen  
 If I were a pen, I'd tell write the truth...  
 If I were a pen, I'd tell write: "I need you!"  
     "I want you!"  
     "I like you!"  
     "I love you!"  
 If I were a pen, I'd tell write how special you are to me.  
 Then, you'd know how I really feel.  
 And maybe, just maybe, you'd tell write me:  
 "If I were a pen, I'd love you back!"



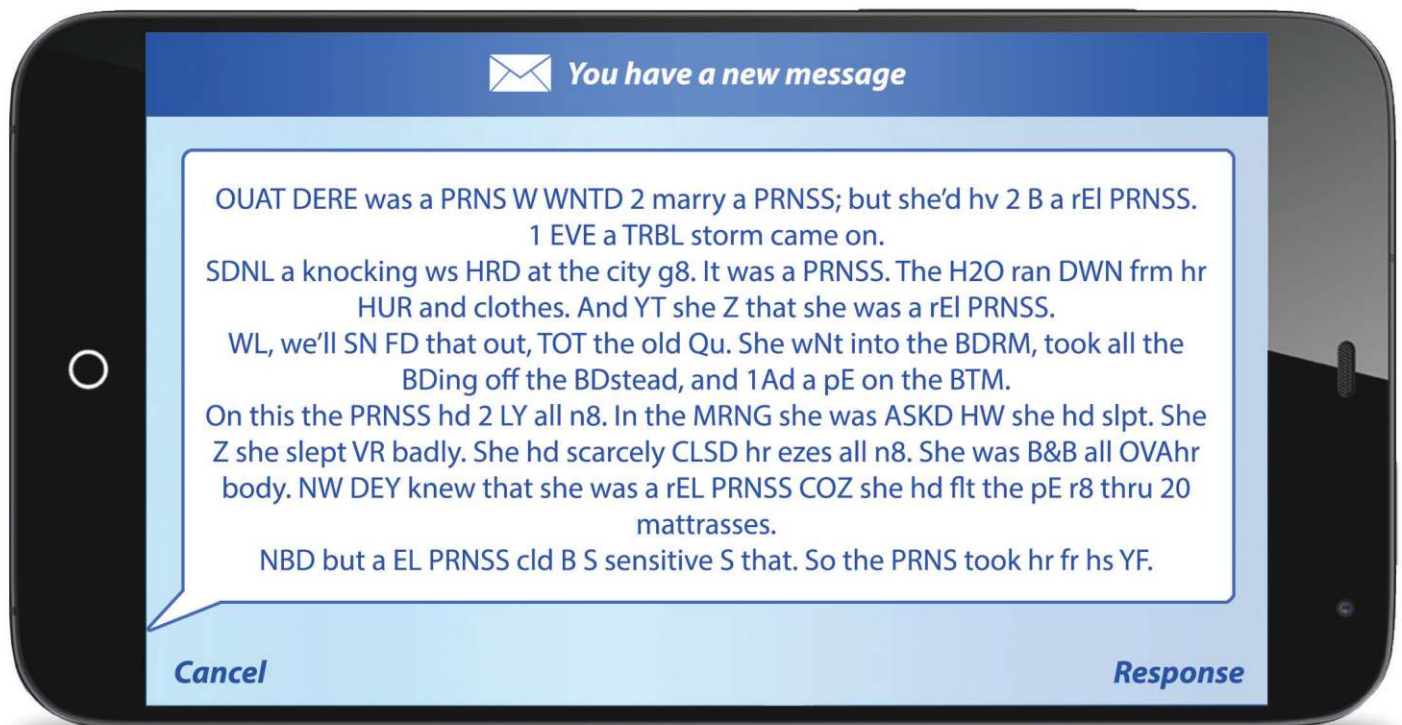
Now, I feel just hollow and sorry...  
 Because the pen had more courage than me.  
 But, I hope that someday  
 You will read this poem...  
 or just find my PEN.

*Andrea Čingelová*

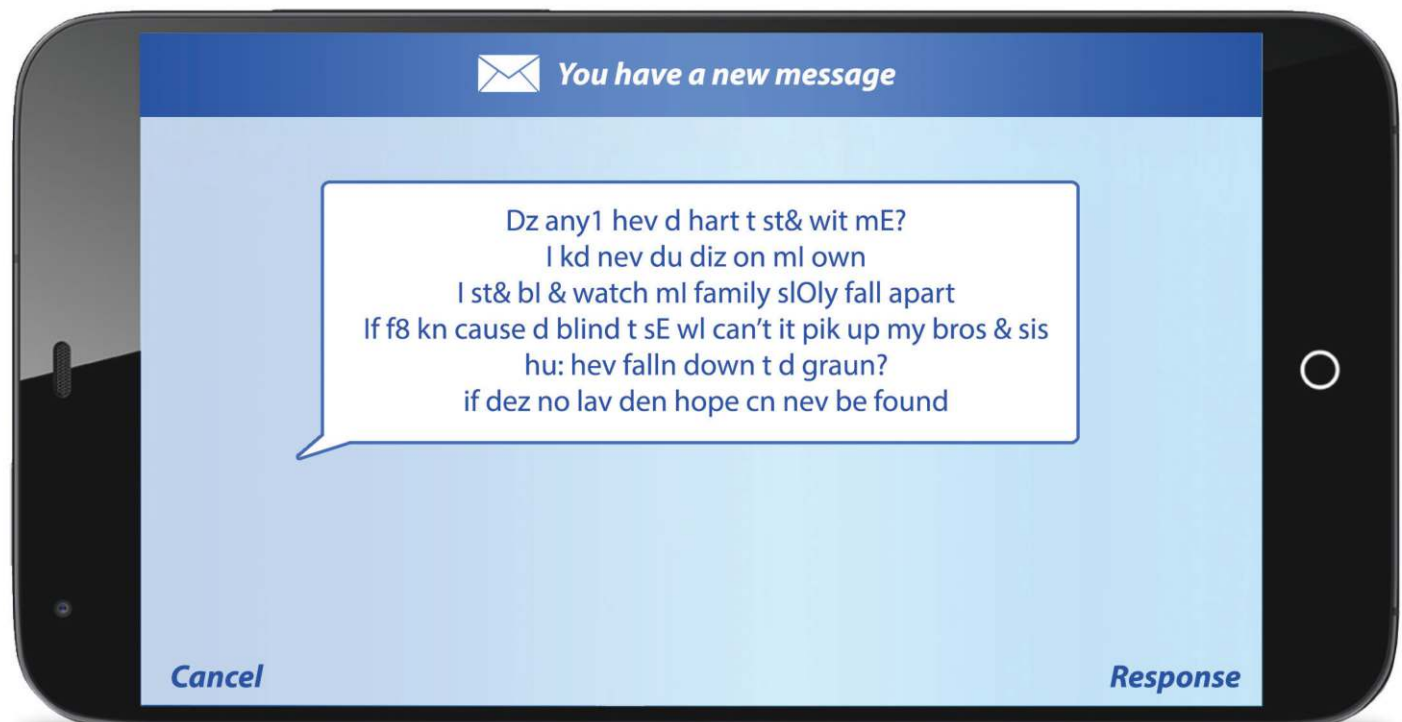
Pen Costume Source:  
[http://img.auctiva.com/imgdata/1/1/2/0/0/4/7/webimg/554740756\\_o.jpg](http://img.auctiva.com/imgdata/1/1/2/0/0/4/7/webimg/554740756_o.jpg)



*Is it possible to write a fairy-tale or a song in a text message? See yourselves...*



*Andrea Cingelová*



*Matej Zelenák*

*CREartED according to Close your Eyes – Something Needs to Change (2010)*



*And finally, a creative recipe for your good mood... Enjoy!*

## **Good mood cakes**

*Mix together a cup of craziness, love and happiness.*

*Keep adding milk until the dough is soft.*

*Now taste the dough and if it isn't sweet enough, add two teaspoons of luck.*

*Heat a heavy frying pan and grease it with enjoyment.*

*Put cakes into the pan and cook till both sides are golden brown.*

*Decorate with excitement – but not too much.*



*Jakub Manduch*

Recipe Paper Source:  
<http://thumbs.dreamstime.com/z/cooking-recipes-background-jar-full-honey-white-32931439.jpg>



# Borrow a line...

Borrow a line from a well-known children's song and see what comes out of it...

There is a hole in my bucket  
you better come and check it.  
There is a hole in my bucket  
I need something to plug it.  
There is a hole in my bucket  
and this hole is really wicked.  
There is a hole in my bucket  
please come as fast as a rocket.

*Jakub Manduch*

There is a hole in my bucket  
Who caused it must be wicked.  
There is a hole in my bucket  
How dare you to laugh at it.  
There is a hole in my bucket  
I'm so sad I can't fix it.  
There is a hole in my bucket  
I'm thinking about buying a basket.  
There is a hole in my bucket  
Don't care anymore and celebrate it!

*Gabriela Stahorská*

There's a hole in my bucket,  
There's no way to make it,  
There's a hole in my bucket,  
How could you break it?  
There's a hole in my bucket,  
Now you must buy it,  
There's a hole in my bucket,  
Said a salesman in a shop!

*Matej Zelenák*





# CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS THROUGH THE EYES OF A CERTIFIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER

*In our previous issues, we have already talked to writers or translators from Slovakia and abroad. In this issue, we are going to introduce someone whose long-term experience in the area of interlingual interpretation brought about various interesting intercultural encounters – PhDr. Eva Al-Absiová, PhD. – who visited one of our classes and gave an interesting talk about what the knowledge of culture means for her teaching and interpreting “self”.*

***What was your first contact with Arab culture and why did you decide to become a certified interpreter from such an unusual language?***



My first contact with Arab culture dates back to 1980 when I met my future husband (who originally comes from Syria) during my studies at the Charles University in Prague. He studied Journalism there. We often attended various cultural events organized by foreign students from Arab countries. In 1983, I first visited Syria. In the course of six weeks, I travelled around the country and explored its cultural and historical sites. But my first real contact with Arab culture was in 1988, when I arrived in Damascus and stayed there for 10 years. In 1998 we moved back to Slovakia.

And why did I become a certified interpreter? Well, maybe it was my "linguistic passion". Arabic is the sixth foreign language that I learned. My relationship to foreign languages started in the third year at the primary school when I started to learn German and a year later Russian. At high school, I studied English and Latin; my university studies brought about two more languages – French and Arabic. Besides my full-time job, I also worked as a translator of tourist brochures from Czech into Slovak. It was in those days that I realized the "charm" of translation - finding suitable equivalents and constantly expanding my knowledge. I was interested in court interpreting for other reasons as well. My sons were born in Syria. When we moved to Slovakia, it was important to arrange Slovak citizenship for them, so I had to acquire various documents for translation from Arabic into Slovak and vice versa. At that time, I realized the importance of certified translators and interpreters.

***How long did you study Arabic language? What are the conditions of becoming a certified interpreter from and into Arabic in Slovakia?***

I studied Arabic for five years at the State Language School in Prague. During my ten-year stay in Syria, I first studied a two-year full-time study programme at the Institute of Arabic Language for Foreigners in Damascus. Afterwards, I continued at the Faculty of Literature and Humanities at Damascus University where I completed a four term specialized study of the Arabic language. I successfully completed my studies after passing the final exams and defending my thesis. After moving back to Slovakia, a few months later, I applied for being included in the List of Interpreters at the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. In January 1999, I was appointed a court interpreter and took an oath. At that time, the following conditions



were requisite to become a certified interpreter: the respective language education or a ten-year experience with the given language abroad. Currently, the conditions are determined by Law no. 382/2004 and the Decree of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic no. 490/2004. The conditions are as follows: language education or experience, passing a professional language examination of the interpreter/translator, passing the professional minimum exam (on basic legal regulations concerned with the interpreting/translation activity). Professional minimum as well as professional language examination are provided by the Interpreting Institutes (e.g. Institute of Interpreting at the Faculty of UKF Nitra). I must point out that professional language exams are quite difficult and require very good knowledge of the terminology from various areas. Furthermore, the whole process is costly for the applicant. The fee for the entry in the register is determined by the Ministry, the fees for the professional examinations and professional minimum are determined by Interpreting Institutes (see relevant websites).

### ***How would you compare Arab and Slovak culture?***

In Arab and Slovak culture we can find both common and differing elements. Generally speaking, Slovaks and Arabs are sociable, quite loud, they love good food and in the social practice they often resort to the principle of nepotism and clientelism. On the other hand, Arab society is more respectful towards the family and relatives, showing greater respect to parents and the elderly. Securing the future of children is in the first place. I lived in a Muslim neighbourhood and as a woman, I did not experience humiliation or any kind of discrimination in Syria. I respected the people around me and they respected me even though they knew I was not a Muslim. Moreover, I visited very conservative families, but I had no problems with them. These answers are not very "in" in Slovakia. Unfortunately, my experience is that if I give a positive image of Arab society in Slovakia, everyone accuses me of being subjective and my rather positive experience (of 10 years there!) is considered a mere coincidence. But if the media express a negative attitude towards the Arabs (despite being based on a short-term experience), it is considered a proper and objective observation. This is, unfortunately, my personal experience in Slovakia.

My long-term stay in an Arab country helps me a lot in my interpreting practice, during which I meet with various Arab clients - Christians, Muslims, conservatives, and liberals. I have always been accepted as an interpreter so far, in civil as well as serious criminal cases.

### ***As an interpreter, have you experienced any "culture shocks"?***

I have not experienced any serious "culture shock" in my interpreting practise so far. It's probably because I have had a long experience with Arab culture. I lived an everyday life in the Arab milieu for 10 years; I met with Arab people daily; I studied at the Arab University; and I gave birth to my children in an Arab hospital; furthermore, my children also went to an Arab school. In my professional research, I focus on Cultural Studies and Arab culture. But maybe I will experience some kind of shock in the future. On the other hand, I experience "culture shocks" from serious lack of knowledge of Slovak population about the Arab culture and society.



***Do you prefer your teaching or your translating and interpreting "self"?***

I like working with people and for people, so I like teaching as well as interpreting and translating. If one wants to teach a language, one must use it actively in practice. When I interpret, I improve my language skills as well as my intercultural competence. In the process of interpreting, a special kind of an "intercultural micro-space" is created, where cultural misunderstandings may occur. An experienced interpreter must handle such misunderstandings. It is like "two in one": interpreter and intercultural mediator in one person. And that is the reason why I like my profession so much. Each case in my professional career enriches both my professional and my human "self". And then I transfer my experience into my teaching practice. Teaching and interpreting are two sides of the same coin for me.

***What are the advantages and disadvantages of being an interpreter?***

Every profession has its advantages and disadvantages. But when you do it with pleasure and responsibility, the advantages prevail. I mainly focus on court interpreting and translation and there, I see these positives: getting to know people with different cultural identities, strengthening my knowledge base, a sense of importance, and enabling mutual intercultural understanding of both sides. Many times the client is distanced from home and feels abandoned. The interpreter is a foothold for him/her, the one who can be trusted and relied on. And that is a big responsibility. As regards court interpreting, the disadvantage is that the negative aspects of court cases can be transferred into one's private life. But after a certain time of practice, these negative aspects can be eliminated. Don't worry, you do not have to become cynical, you just need to learn how to separate your work from your private life. Another disadvantage of court interpreting is insufficient financial reward from the state authorities and limited opportunities for deductions of expenses related to the interpretation activity. And these are the problems faced by court interpreters for many years.

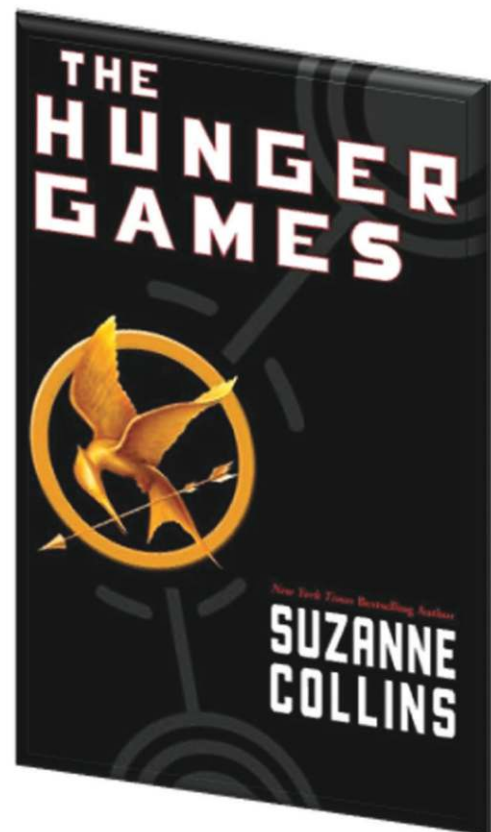
*Michaela Kališová*



# WELCOME TO THE HUNGER GAMES!

There is no shortage of fantastic literary works within the Millennial Generation, one that spans from early 1980's to the early 2000's. Young adult literature has flourished since the collapse of the Soviet Union as youth of the world eagerly reached out to expand their horizons and lift bars off their prosecuted fantasies. Non-existence of nowadays overwhelming social networks provided a full field growth for literature of all kinds. Young people happily opted for connecting with each other through sharing stories of their beloved heroes. Literature and reading today are viewed upon as an activity that isolates individuals and inclines towards introversion – an opposite to when literature connected masses of young people and inspired their own stories. Phenomena like J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter franchise cease to fade in popularity even after a decade. Such an intense reading experience for many can hardly be substituted or forgotten, but it does not completely sate evolving hunger for new stories, characters and adventures. Hunger – see what I did there?

The Hunger Games franchise by Suzanne Collins took the world by storm by becoming a New York Times bestseller in all its editions and abruptly swooned a huge part of young readers who were feeling abandoned on outskirts of literature, looking for another story to delve into. A novel that firmly tied its roots into foundation of dystopian fiction (usually a future post-apocalyptic society) has offered an unparalleled world and characters to discover. The nation of Panem located in remnants of United States ruined by a cataclysmic war of districts against the Capitol introduces stories and people that society of today easily associates with. Oppression, lack of resources and empathy is underlined by enormous cruelty of government led by powerful President Snow. Twelve districts of Panem,



each with their specific economical role in dystopian society, are treated with an illusion of a perfect world of balance. As a reminder of the Capitol's overwhelming power, they annually select two tributes (male and female) from each district to participate in ceremonial bloodbath/reality show Hunger Games. 24 tributes selected by a random vote fight to the death in an arena until there is a lone victor standing at the end. Katniss Everdeen, the main protagonist of the story, is unlike any hero the reader has encountered before. According to the background of literary archetypal criticism she can be distinctly recognized as the hero, but the depth of her character stretches far beyond this recognition. She is a sixteen-year old girl with a chip on her shoulder, her father dead, mother incompetent due to an illness and sister Prim whom she loves and protects with all her mental and physical strength. The very peak of it displays when she volunteers to substitute Prim in the Hunger Games, which



sets her on a life-threatening journey with her mentor Haymitch Abernathy and co-tribute Peeta Mellark. Both main and support characters are an incredibly vivid portrayal of Collins' imagination. Their struggles are palpable enough to enthrall a reader with every single turn of a page. Katniss fights for survival and triumphs thanks to her acquired perseverance, strength and will. Every single day of her life, wielding a bow and arrows in her hands, has been an attempt to stay alive and protect her loved ones. She has a lot to live for and her courage is superior to her fears and doubts. Initially, Katniss is not a hero trying to change the world, she does her best to preserve her own. Yet after the realization that a dynamic change is inevitable, she sets out to pull through with a movement capable of preserving "the better world" for others. If you have not read the books, don't worry; I will not give away the juicy details. The Hunger Games - as bloody, violent and heartbreaking as it may

be, will definitely make you stop and reconsider values of your own life. What is really worth fighting for? Who would you sacrifice your life for? How can you change something that seems impossible to overcome? These are difficult questions and the Hunger Games franchise will only hint at the answers. So far, millions of readers have found themselves within the encompassing story and characters just to question their own private convictions. In English speaking countries, readers thirsty for new reading experience received one they will never forget and can build on. Suzanne Collins had created a young adult literature masterpiece that is definitely worth stopping by and calling it your new favorite book saga.

*Michal Pigula*

*Book Cover Source:*

*<http://www.scholastic.com/thehungergames/>*

# What the...?

## ...or do you still believe human is the most intelligent creature?



Because life is not only about serious things, I prepared for you a short account of the most curious and daft human acts. For this issue, I collected the most significant stereotypes used along with different nationalities. You would not believe your eyes.

FYI, national stereotypes are generalisations, fixed ideas about different countries often used as a trolling. Sometimes, they are very close to the reality but it is not the general truth. They can sometimes be considered the manifestations of racism but, be honest, generally, they are some kind of extent fun and fascinating different preconceptions from one country to another. So please, do not take them seriously.

Let's start with a well-known joke. What do you think is that truth?

*Heaven is where the cooks are French, the police are British, the mechanics are German, the lovers are Italian and everything is organized by the Swiss.*

*Hell is where the cooks are British, the police are German, the mechanics are French, the lovers are Swiss, and everything is organized by the Italians.*

### ARABIC COUNTRIES

- Arabs are impulsive billionaires, womanizers, bombers and belly-dancers. (*What a combination!*)
- Play & pray attitude for living.

### AUSTRALIA

- Party animals and heavy binge drinkers: surf all day – drink all night.
- Useless Crocodile Dundee dads and Barbie loving home cooking mums.

### AUSTRIA

- Humourless, hardworking gardeners dressed in "Lederhosen" and drinking beer.
- They are yodelling the whole day.

### BELGIUM

- Fries, mussels, chocolate and waffles eaters with beer running through their veins reading only comic books. (*I think, I'm moving to my new chocolate and waffles house in Belgium.*)
- They often "pee" where they go.

### BULGARIA

- They survive on tomato, cucumber and goat cheese only.

### CANADA

- Proud not to be Americans.
- Canadians learn to ice-skate before they learn to walk.
- They are boring, their culture is based on Celine Dion, they don't like successful people and they live in igloos.





## CZECH REPUBLIC

- Beautiful women and moustache-wearing men always drinking beer and absinth.
- Men wearing socks in their sandals while driving Skoda.

## DENMARK

- Trusting, punctual environmentalists.

## FINLAND

- Depressed vodka drinkers. (*Ok, Ok. Did you know that Finland, Russia and Slovakia are so familiar?*)
- They have old-fashioned moustache, an abusive wife, no fashion sense, living in the woods and spending time with hunting bears and sitting in sauna. (*Well, moustache, woods, sauna with a bear – that is too much for me*)
- Curvy straight talkers and nit pickers.

## FRANCE

- Snob, arrogant strikers and good lovers who don't speak English.
- People wearing berets while riding a bicycle with a basket full of baguettes.
- French have poor hygiene.

## GERMANY

- Hardworking humourless men, who love their cars more than everything.
- Germans are Nazis with strict sense of organization.

## GREECE

- Hairy, loud gay gossipers and smokers, really tight on money.
- Lazy, big and overweight people eating souvlaki and drinking Ouzo all day long.
- They can't drive in the dark.

## INDIA

- Indians are poor, narrow-minded and conservative people watching soap operas.
- Meditating or walking over fire people, pinching needles through their mouth, hands, legs and private parts.

## IRELAND

- Heavy catholic drinkers with red hair and white-white skin.
- Short tempered angry men as well as Celtic music fanatics.

## ITALY

- Always talking, bad listeners, who are good looking fashionable womanizers eating pizza, pasta and spaghetti.
- Italians are good lovers, bad workers and members of Mafia.
- Manipulative Casanovas and gigolos living with their Mamas.

## JAMAICA

- Grass smokers, reggae and rasta maniacs looking like Bob Marley.
- They want American women and American dollars but don't like American blacks.
- The life goal of a Jamaican man is to have plenty of babies with multiple women.
- Jamaicans live in trees, walk barefoot, own a gun and all they care is weed.
- God is Bob Marley.

## JAPAN & ASIAN COUNTRIES

- They can make anything cute.

- Japanese bath in unisex public showers, buy sex toys and porn from vending machines and they are very "short" somewhere on a private place but "bigger" than Chinese.
- Asians are inhuman high-tech robots makers and kung-fu fighters.
- They eat everything that moves. (*It is said, Asians can eat everything with four legs except table and any thing that can fly except aeroplane.*)
- Chinese are terrible drivers but fast learners, they can pirate and copy everything - they are preparing for world domination.

## NETHERLANDS

- Greedy, gay, liberal, stoned cyclists. (*Did you know, that it is said, there are more bicycles in Netherlands than inhabitants?*)
- Nation of rosy-cheeked farmers who live in windmills, wear clogs, have a garden full of tulips and sit on piles of yellow cheese.

## NORWAY

- Rustic, patriotic and unsophisticated fish-eating trolls with muddy boots. (*Pure fish.*)

## PORTUGAL

- Lazy and nostalgic people waiting for the hero to come.

## ROMANIA

- Vampires speaking Russian. (*Wait, I thought that Twilight and Edward were American.*)
- Everyone owns a mystic castle next to Dracula in the Carpathian mountains in Transylvania.
- They have too many children, women are mothers and wives - trafficking of women, prostitution, domestic violence and sexual harassment is their own fault.

## RUSSIA

- Russians are drunk alcoholic communists with a positive relationship to Vodka.
- They are mainly poor with a few shiny billionaires, who are buying football clubs around the world.

## SLOVAKIA

- Still a part of Czechoslovakia, because it still exists as a unique country.
- Friendly people who are working a lot, there are pretty girls and a lot of alcoholic habits.

## SPAIN

- Fiesta, siesta and macho men.
- Always late megalomaniac bull fighters who look like Antonio Banderas. (*Good to know!*)

## SWEDEN

- All people in Sweden are tall, slender, blond with blue eyes. (*So there is no doubt, I have no Swedish roots.*)
- Swedish women are feminist.

## SWITZERLAND

- Punctual, watch-making banker individuals. (*And where is the chocolate?*)
- Yodel, play Alpine horns and milk their cows while sitting in the mountains.
- There is at least one cuckoo-clock in the room.

## TURKEY

- Macho Muslim Ottomans driving Mercedes, who have always big families and eat kebab.
- Men wear long bended swords in baggy trousers, turbans and beards.



## UKRAINE

- Russian speaking, poor and radioactive people.

## UNITED KINGDOM

- Drunk and violent football fans obsessed with a class status. (*I would love to see Her Majesty then.*)
- People with no idea what the humour is and bulldog spirit.
- God save the Queen!

## USA

- Americans are fat and greedy fast-food eaters.
- The only country in the world is called America, they are war mongers with the clue: God is with us!

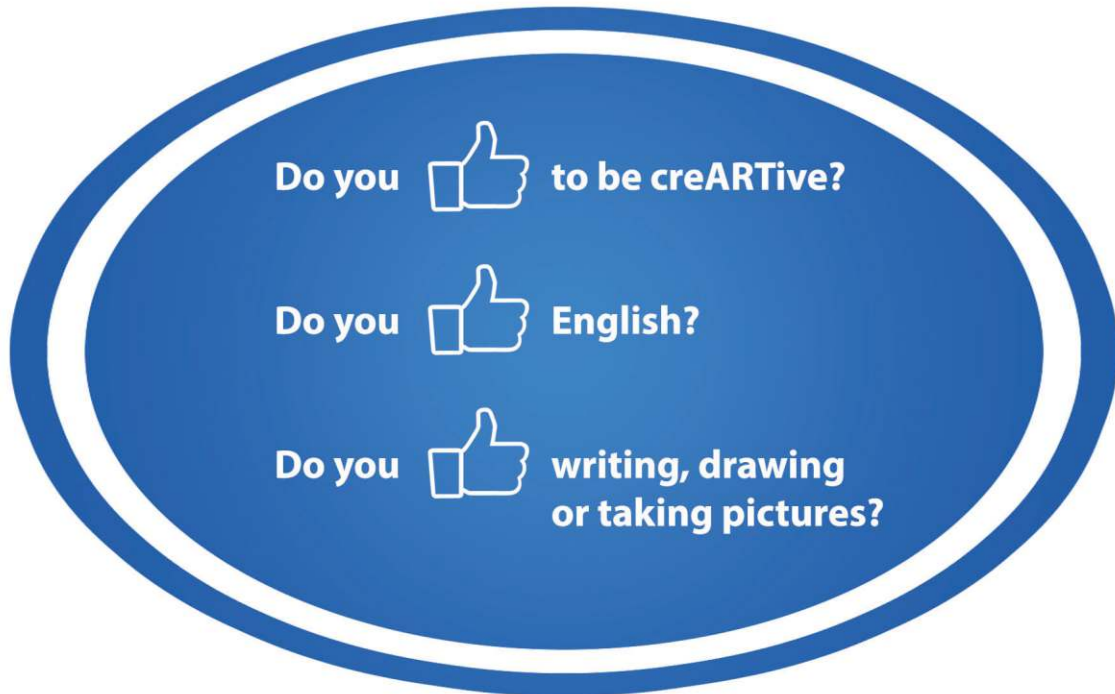


Source: <http://www.boredpanda.com/mapping-stereotypes>

*Kitty Vyparinová*  
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