

Dearest Mrs. Skleničková and Kalibová,

We would like to greet you from T.G Masaryk Czech school! Our school is on the outskirts of Chicago and in two years we will be celebrating our one-hundredth anniversary. We have school every Saturday and some of us have been attending this school for six years. We are twelve years old and we are almost the oldest. At school, we not only learn how to speak Czech but we also read Czech books and we learn about Czech history and culture. It is important for us because in the summer we go to the Czech Republic to visit our grandparents and it helps with learning other languages.

For the past six years, we have visited the American Lidice every year in June with the school. The small town of Stern Park Gardens, which is about an hour from Chicago, renamed itself to Lidice in June of 1942. There are a monument and a rose garden. The children from our school perform poems at Lidice. Last year we sang songs about our planet. The year before that we wrote our own poems about Lidice and we drew pictures. We once even read letters from Lidice children which we translated to English on our own because even people who don't speak Czech visit Lidice. We read the letters in both languages and some people even cried during our performance because they were thinking about the tragic fate of the Lidice children and their parents.

We wanted to ask you what memories you have of the Lidice school, what was your favorite about it and which classes you got the best grades in. We are also interested in knowing how was your childhood in Lidice and what you liked to do in your spare time. And when you were younger did you play nice with each other or did you fight?

When you were at the concentration camp were you together? Was Czech important for you? Did you maybe sing Czech songs there? Do you have a favorite song or poem from your childhood? We would like to learn them and maybe even perform them this year during our annual remembrance of Lidice in June.

We are also interested if you have any advice or any message for children like us, who have almost everything and live in peace. We probably can't even imagine what it would be like if someone would kill our father and ship us off to a concentration camp. It is a big honor for us that we could write to you and it would make us very happy if you could write back.

Sincerely,
The students of T.G Masaryk