

## **Juro Jánošík – Slovakian hero**

In a small village called Terchová in mountains of Small Fatra in January 1688 a boy was born in a poor cottage in Jánošík family.

He was born in period of Habsburg monarchy, in the time of serfdom, when poor people lived very hard. Village people had to work on the fields of their masters very much - from the morning to the evening, often hungry, in hot days.

Jurko was growing up, he was strong and brave boy. He didn't like injustice, he has never hurt the weak, but he protected them from his childhood.

He didn't like behavior of rich masters, who often punished their serfs very cruelly.

When one day their Master - the Earl - punished his father cruelly, Jánošík rebelled, he freed his father from the prison and he escaped to the nearby mountains. He became an outlaw and he formed a group of boys – rebels from his village. He became their leader. They lived in the mountains and robbed the rich.

**Their slogan was: Take the rich and give to the poor.**

By the legend he has never killed someone, he only robbed noblemen.

People said about him that he is invincible, because he received 3 magical things from the fairies:

**One fairy gave him the magical belt, the second fairy gave him the magical hatchet and the third fairy gave him the magical shirt. All things were indestructible by the legend.**

Nevertheless, in 1713, he was caught in a tavern when the gendarmes prepared a trick for him. When he was escaping he slipped on some peas that had been thrown by an bad old woman under his feet. He was imprisoned and finally executed in the town called Liptovský Mikuláš.

He was supposedly hanged for a rib. The legends says that his last words belonged to the masters who caught him and judged him: "If you have baked me so you should also eat me!" and he jumped on the hook.

Legends about hero Juraj Jánošík are still alive in Slovakia. Jánošík became the main character of many Slovak novels and poems.

Written by Slovakian students.