

# Eva's Summer Vacation

by Jan Machalek

A Czech Republic story of tradition, family and warm summer days. The reader will be transported to another country through the beautiful full-page illustrations and simple Czech phrases.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Do any of you know what country your ancestors are from?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why they all are dressed the same?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Eva's Summer Vacation*

- embankment: a ridge or raised platform that supports a road
- board: to get into a train, boat, airplane or in a vehicle as a passenger
- scones: a small baked bread similar to a biscuit
- grove: a group of trees
- glade: an area in a forest without trees
- folk: traditions of a culture passed down in a community or country
- brook: a small freshwater stream

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where did Eva live?
- Why were Eva and her father leaving Prague?
- What were some things that Eva was going to miss while she was gone?
- How did they travel to Moravia?
- Describe what Eva saw from her plane window seat.
- Who was all at Eva's cousin's house?
- What sorts of things did Eva and her cousins do while they waited for the wedding to begin?
- What did Eva and her family wear at the wedding? Why did they wear the folk costumes?
- What traditions were celebrated during the wedding?
- How long did Eva stay in Maravia? Who was going to stay with her the next summer?



**Do**

## Our own Czech celebration!

You will need: dress up clothes for each student, folk music and music instruments

After reading the story, talk about the different traditions found in the story. On a map or globe point out where Prague and Moravia are located. Talk about some similarities between our own wedding traditions and ones found in the story. Allow the children enough time to create their own wedding folk costumes. Play some folk music and allow them the opportunity to dance and/or play music instruments.

If desired: Serve some biscuits/scones with jelly as a treat.