

OUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE STORY OF THE TWO HORSES

Two horses at the reserve in Škocjanski zatok were attacked by a mentally disturbed boy. It inspired us how the horses reacted to the attack. It showed us how animals give us second chances, but on the other hand humans are not so forgiving and they execute animals at their first »mistake«. It is very interesting how the horse that was nearly killed is now the leader of the group and trusts people the most.

We should learn a lot from the nature and start to act responsibly. We are glad that the people who work in the reserve decided to save the two mighty horses, so that they can show us the true beauty of nature. We hope that the story becomes known world-wide, stopping people from harming animals. We have to start respecting animals and their life, so that they will not become extinct and that nature will not turn her back against us.

ALJAŽ SLABE

TOBIJA KAVČIČ

1. C

REPORT ON SCHOOL TRIP TO ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK

I am Anže Pečkaj, a student at Gimnazija Vič secondary school. On 6th of June, I and my schoolmates from classes 1. C and 1. E went to visit Škocjanski zatok. The students were accompanied by five very friendly teachers.

All of us left the meeting point at Dolgi most at half past eight in the morning. An old bus picked us up and the journey began. When we arrived to Škocjanski zatok, we first went to the lecture room. A friendly lady who works there explained to us how this beautiful reserve was made.

After the lecture, teacher Kosi gave the whole class a task to write a poem or a story inspired by Škocjanski zatok. When everybody was finished with writing, we went out of the main building and walked around the reserve. The students were grouped into groups of eight and were given different tasks. We did many experiments and completed the worksheets. After all the worksheets were submitted, we went to Koper. Everybody went swimming or walking around the beautiful town. Some of the students had lunch there. Unfortunately, the fun always ends. We returned to Dolgi most at around seven o'clock.

To sum it up, I had an amazing day at Škocjanski zatok. I learned so many new things and information about certain species of animals and plants. It was very interesting and I would love to go there again.

Anže Pečkaj, 1. C

I'm just standing here,
what's that smell in the air?
I don't want to breathe it in,
my lungs are full of acetin.
I can't watch it any more,
this I just can't ignore.
Her wings can't spread,
I wish I wouldn't care.
Feathers full of sticky dirt,
this must really hurt.
I bet she barely breathes,
clean water and air she needs.
Think about that when you see
a bird that's dying in the oily sea.

Hana Gombač, 1. E

HAIKU

Squawk of a jay
walking sticks left
along the trail.

Open sky ...
the joyful call to chicks
of a mother goose.

Lovro Cerar, Filip Petrovčič Renčof 1. E

ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK

When we heard the inspiring story about Škocjanski zatok, we wanted to contribute to the cause and came up with an idea about tracking and marking the birds.

We were told that marking the birds with an aluminium ring is very cheap but on the other hand it is not very accurate. The correct direction of the birds' flight cannot be tracked and their speed of flying cannot be measured.

After thinking for a while and browsing the internet, we got an idea about decomposable organic GPS tracking device. We imagine that this device would be put in birds' bodies, for example in their stomach or on their back, and then decompose in 5 years' time. In this period, the device would measure their moving speed, their heartbeat and their way of flying. The device would be very lightweight, probably less than 5 grams. It would neither hurt their body nor would it affect their flexibility or moving speed.

The only downside of our idea is the price. The cost of making this high-end organic device would probably be very high. To lower the price, some components could be made from recycled or reusable materials. We also thought about the name and the idea for it was *Folium01*. Folium would represent the birds since it means a wing in English and the number 01 would represent the first model of our device.

Dominik Kušar, Timotej Mole, Tilen Povirk 1. C

THINKING, INSPIRED BY ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK

I often think about my grandparents who do not live in town like I do and I often feel sad because I do not see them very often. They live in a small village and the atmosphere there is much more different than here.

At first, they lived in an old house for many years. Every time my family was there and my parents went to the supermarket, I was staring through the window waiting for them. I was very happy when they came back. The neighbours had a lot of animals – chickens, cows, cats, dogs ...

There I had a very good friend. I was at her house almost every day. I have spent some of my best days in life with her. Then I grew up and visited my grandparents rarely.

I prefer to stay in town, but I still like nature and animals. Why am I talking about this? Now I am sitting here, somewhere in Koper with my schoolmates and I am trying to be inspired by all this nature surrounding me. I have to confess – it is not hard.

Here we were told a story about two injured horses. The employees were about to give up by not sending them to recovery. But then, they decided to do it. Both horses are now well and they seem to be thankful for people's help by being very friendly and cuddly.

This place was literally a dump in the past. It is incredible what people have done to clean it and make an environment for fragile species of animals. Now it reminds me of Tuscany, it really does. I can see tall trees through the window and small houses under them.

The city is not so far away and that is fine with me. I can say that I miss my grandparents and their pretty little house and their big garden near it.

Maybe it is good to have relatives who live somewhere else, far away from you, because some day you realise how important their living space can be for you.

ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK

HAIKU

Almost ruined
power of people
bird spreads the wings

Industry
all around
a green heart

A STORY

Once, there lived a toad named Gronhilda. She lived and ruled Škocjanski zatok. Her palace was made of garbage and surrounded by pools of dirty water. The awful smell pleased her because it drove away visitors.

In a small corner, out of Gronhilda's reach, lived two herons, Daisy and Anton. Their lives were getting harder because of pollution and the smell of Gronhilda's palace. Because they wanted a better life for their children, they called for help Tina which was an otter and their friend. She answered their call immediately and showed up with many other animals. Together they made a plan and started cleaning the area step by step. They soon came to Gronhilda's palace where pollution was the worst. When she saw other animals, she stepped out and told them to go away. "Gronhilda listen," Daisy shouted. "Let us show you how beautiful life can be without garbage!" After a few minutes of thinking, she went with them and saw how nice the nature is. She decided to clean up her palace and build a new, nicer one.

A word about the beautiful and now clean Škocjanski zatok spread quickly and a lot of new animals came to live there. Daisy's and Anton's children could now live in a clean environment with many friends. Everyone lived happily ever after.

Neva, Ana B., Neja, Laura 1. C

Škocjanski zatok

I know of a place
quiet and nice
where the birds rule the space
of water and sky.

Here there is beauty
we're watching it rise,
its protection is our duty
because its importance is high.

This land is Škocjanski zatok,
rich with nature, small in size.
Look around and take a walk,
for at the end you'll say: Oh my!

Gal Terzer, 1. E

ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK

Škocjanski zatok is a natural reserve established by extraordinary people who care about their land. We were amazed by the background story about its creation.

We found it interesting how the area has been transformed from a dump into this wonderful shelter for so many endangered species. Personally, we didn't imagine it would be so modern-looking and well-taken care of. We were really inspired by all the people who came together to protect the nature. Through all this time, they have faced many difficulties, for instance the attack on the two horses that live in the reserve. Although they were in critical condition, this didn't stop the people from saving them.

We heard about the organisation's need to apply for financial support in 2019. We really hope they will succeed because they deserve it. The work they do is remarkable and has a great impact on younger generations.

Tara Velepec, Manja Jerala, Eva Žuna 1. C

Birds flying so high.
They are just spreading their wings.
What does the wind bring?

Miha Zorko 1. E

Bird, bird, bird, bird, birds
are flying over our heads.
Škocjanski zatok.

Jure Valentinčič 1. E

The Miracle Of Flight

A bird takes flight
with no help from light.
It flies away
no matter the winds' way.

Its limits are small,
to be honest there are only three ...
The sky, the land ...
and the sea.

True wonders, they are ...
birds I mean.
With just feathers and bones
they defy us all.

They are big, yet so small.
They are soft, yet so strong.

The true miracle of flight
brought to life
by their might.

Maj Dimitrijevič
1. E

THE POWER OF PEOPLE

I am Polona Hočevar and around ten years ago I lived right beside a garbage dump. Almost every day when the wind blew an awful smell spread to my neighbourhood. It was so bad that we had to run outside, take our laundry inside, close the windows and stay inside for the rest of the day.

There were a lot of people having the same problem as me so we decided to form a group which would help us solve the problem. In 2006 the group was finally big enough and the cleaning action began. Farmers with big trucks came to help us. In a few years, we finally cleaned the region. For the next years, our goal was to create a better habitat for all the endangered species and other animals and plants. We made many canals with fresh, salty water and artificial islands. We got a lot of financial support from governmental organisations which helped us improve the park.

We are very happy that local people stepped together and made this a better place. This confirmed the fact that people in groups can achieve more than individuals.

Anže Pečkaj, Gašper Kreft 1. C

THE STORY OF LOVE

You are about to witness the story you have never heard before. It contains two different living creatures.

It all started with an accident. It was a stormy night. Doctor D., who was a retired vet, was driving home from his daughter's wedding. In the middle of a slippery road, there was a standing horse. The horse saw a car, but he couldn't move.

Doctor D. didn't have control of his car anymore. He tried to slow it down, but it wasn't working.

Suddenly a horse was hit by a car. Doctor D., as a big animal lover, ran to the horse. His eyes were half closed and when doctor D. came to him he closed his eyes completely.

The vet took him home and took care of him. Doctor D. was treating the horse, feeding him daily and giving him the power to get back on his feet.

The horse got attached to his owner and so did the doctor. Every day was the same until one day. It was the day when doctor D. didn't come home.

Years passed by and the horse was still waiting until his last breath. He closed his eyes imagining doctor D. running to him. It was just like the first time when they had met. In his heart he was reunited with the dear doctor.

Lana Uršič, Ana Peklaj 1. C

A TRIP TO NATURE

I'm on a walk
in Škocjanski zatok.

I look to the right,
and see two crabs having a fight.

Then I look to the left,
and see a bird's nest.

I hear a strange sound,
so I look around.

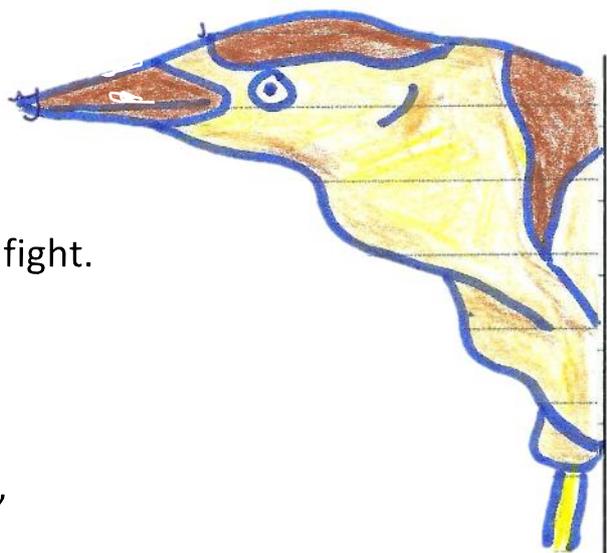
There is a small frog,
who is making rega-rega-quak.

When I go by,
I tell her goodbye.

Above me there's the sky,
and a heron is flying high.

She flies away,
and that makes me feel like everything is okay.

My trip ends,
with an ice-cream in my hands.



WHAT INSPIRED US ...

We felt really inspired by the story of the two injured horses. They were hurt by a man who was mentally ill. Even though their wounds were severe, the workers didn't give up on them. They stayed by their side so that the horses eventually got better. Now they are stronger than ever and they are really nice to the workers and visitors. We were inspired by the story because no matter how difficult the situation is, you have to keep going and pursuing your goals. When things get hard, you shouldn't give up because if you do, you won't achieve anything. Even if you are the one that gets injured, you should keep fighting and not let go of your dreams. This goes for any situation in life, not just injuries. We think that this place is magical and it can inspire anybody.

Ela Bolčina

Petra Černela

Neža Trček,

1. C



Building business with tourism

The nature reserve Škocjanski zatok is still using funds from the European Union so maybe they should consider making some money with tourism while aiming for the wealthy and rich. The reserve could be the one to offer them peace and tranquillity for the first time in their busy lives while also giving them a chance to appreciate and enjoy the nature.

It should be noted that the top priority of Škocjanski zatok is to preserve nature and tourism should come second, because no matter the cause the nature should not be harmed. However, the place has some great potential and would make a great residence to spend a week of retreat there.

My initial proposition was that the reserve could add some extra floors to the main centre transforming it into a multipurpose building – a congress room, reception and lodgings, using the few extra floors as a place to build some suites where people could live and enjoy the peace and comfort of nature surrounding them. This type of tourism wouldn't disturb any of the animal species while the visitors would be satisfied. Due to such exclusive location, the prices for the apartments could really be sky-high.

There are still other ways the tourism around Škocjanski zatok could be improved, but this is challenging because in many cases a number of animals would be disturbed which would not serve the purpose of the reserve.

Urban Linke

1. E

A DEPRESSED BIRD

I look in the sky,
I see birds flying,
but then I notice that
I'm crying.

The birds so beautiful
my eyes are tearing up,
I'm starting to feel,
like I'm gonna give up.

I wanna fly up to the sky,
open my wings wide,
and have a better life.

But that's not gonna happen
because I don't have wings
and I also lost my dreams.

HAIKU

Birds so free, and me?

Trying to fly away while

people cut my wings.

Manca in Anaja 1. E

1. Heartbeat of nature
bring me here
winds of sea.

2. Sink, sank, sunk
in the wildness of
peace.

3. The scream of a crow
goes through my heart
silence.

NUTTY

Helo, my name is Nutty and I live in Škocjanski zatok. More specifically, in salted water surrounded by beautiful green areas.

I wouldn't be here today without a small group of persistent people who transformed a wasteland into a natural habitat. So because of them, I and my friends can live a peaceful life here.

Today something happened ... Actually some kids happened. I was trying to enjoy my afternoon with my wife and kids, but then suddenly an accident occurred. A crazy girl kidnapped me and tried to put me into a small bowl of water. My wife was so jealous. I jumped, she screamed, I pretended to be dead, then she started crying and she sprinkled me with water, or maybe it was just her tears. I kept pretending to be dead and then suddenly my spine went *cracking noise*.

So now I'm recovering from a bad back and I really hope that karma gets this girl someday. Now I can continue living my life as a bug with a not-so-jealous wife.

Nika Mihelčič, Katja Svetina, Ema Purkart, Zala Trček, 1. E