

Dear children,

Thank you for the beautiful letter and I am writing these few paragraphs as my response. Writing this letter is me, Jaroslava, the younger of the two Suchánek sisters. Míla is also greeting you and she is happy that you are interested in the story of Lidice. We attended the school in Lidice only until about halfway through third grade and what I do remember is that I liked singing, gym class and counting. Then my father was transferred to Slovakia, so I attended Slovakian school. After fifth grade, I went back to the Czech Republic and I continued Czech school and I lived with one of my father's cousins. I visited my parents in Slovakia during Christmas, spring break, Easter, and during summer break. Both me and my sister were very independent which helped after the tragedy in Lidice and in the concentration camp in Germany. I was only sixteen years old but I depended only on myself. I very quickly got to know the Polish girls there and I found myself with them and later even called them my friends. With their help, my mother, my sister, and I stayed together throughout those three years. I learned Polish and I even kept writing letters with my Polish friend until she died. In the camp, I first realized what the Czech Republic means to me and that I could never live anywhere else.

I thank you, children in Chicago, that you remember Lidice every year and I wish you a happy childhood with peace and no wars. I hope you enjoy learning because no one can take that from you and it won't just make your parents proud, but also your country.

That is what we wish for you and your teacher,

Jaroslava Skleničková and Miloslava Kalibová (maiden name Suchánková)

If you weren't so far, I would hug all of you!

Yours,  
Jaroslava Skleničková