

Teddy goes to Europe



Once upon a time there was a little cuddly teddy bear called Teddy who lived in the Lindenschule in Germany. "Where`s that?", Teddy was often asked. "It`s in Jüchen close to Düsseldorf", he then repeated. Teddy's favourite place in school was the windowsill in classroom 4b. From there he could easily watch the children playing football, skipping or cycling.

He used to be invited to play with the children but not anymore. Recently he is often left alone because the children are taking less care of him. This made Teddy sad. He was often bored and slouched through the classroom. One day Teddy saw the class library and spotted a big colourful book 'E-U-R-O-P-E'. He



read the title. Curiously Teddy started reading and soon he was so fascinated by this book that he couldn't stop. "I want to explore Europe by myself!", he shouted out excitedly. Teddy jumped happily over the tables, he imagined himself being a plane and jumped, with his arms stretched out, onto the floor. "If only

I could really fly", he thought, "then I could make my dreams come true". Exactly at that moment the school bell rang and the children came into the classroom.

Quickly Teddy returned to his windowsill. He watched the children placing scissors, glue and many things on the desks in front of them. Coloured paper was given to them as well. Teddy could feel the excitement within the classroom. When he heard the famous song "St Martin", he knew it was the time for the annual Martins festival. That was the reason, why the children were making such colourful lanterns.



The following week the children made decorations, sang songs and they also decorated the school hall. At last the day came and the teacher told the children the story of St. Martin again. Teddy was still excited about the story of the Roman soldier Martin and how he had helped a poor beggar all those years ago.



It was really cold and the beggar was freezing, Martin passed by on his horse and immediately cut his coat in two halves with his sword. He gave half of his coat to the astonished beggar and rode off.

In memory of this story, the people in Germany celebrate the St. Martin's day every year, that was once told to Teddy.

The special part of this day happened in the evening when it was getting dark. Everybody, children, parents, grandparents and friends came to the festival. The Lindenschule was full of people.

The lanterns shone and were admired by all the visitors. In addition all the classes did something special for St. Martin's day, for example singing songs or dancing. Some children played their instruments. Teddy happily watched the hustle and bustle



when he smelt a well-known, delicious aroma which he followed.

He hoped, the smell would lead him directly to the basket of the "breadman", called "*Weckmänner*".



Many children were standing around the basket. Some of them had still got their *Weckmann* which each of them had divided equally with a friend. Teddy joined the queue and waited patiently for his half. He knew that the breadman was given and shared in memory of Martin, who had shared his coat.

After all the *Weckmänner* had been handed out, the children went outside in the school yard with their lanterns. Singing cheerfully they walked with a band through the village. Teddy gazed after the crowd and saw the lanterns disappearing in the darkness.

Even though it had been an exciting day, Teddy sighed and felt sad again. Once again, he was left alone. Sorrowfully he arrived on his windowsill and fell asleep very quickly.

During the night Teddy dreamt of a strange journey. He found himself in a parcel, where he was shaken about. Also during that journey he got a little bit sick. In the middle of the night teddy awoke and looked around, wondering why he had dreamed of such a journey. When he saw the book about Europe, he realized what he wanted to do. He quickly took a pencil from a forgotten pencil case and wrote a message:



*"Dear Children,
I have started an exciting journey. I would like to get to know Europe and tell others from the Lindenschule and our country.
When I come back I am sure I will have many stories to tell you".*

Teddy put the letter on the windowsill and walked to the office. On his last visit he had noticed an open parcel. "Comenius" was printed in big letters on it. It sounded like adventures in Europe to Teddy. Happily he jumped into the parcel and pulled the lid down.

The next day the parcel was collected and Teddy felt the box moving. He was exhausted and fell asleep.

After a long time he woke up, heard rustling and saw the lid slowly being opened

