

Bedřich Smetana – The Kiss (Hubička)

Characters:

- **Lukáš** – A young widower (his wife has died). He has a small child.
- **Vendulka** – A kind and strong young woman who loves Lukáš.
- **Paloucký** – Vendulka's father, who is strict and traditional.
- **Martinka** – Vendulka's aunt, who is wise and caring.
- **Tomeš** – Lukáš's friend, who gives him advice.

Story Summary:

Lukáš is a young man whose wife has died. He is alone with his child and wants to marry Vendulka, the woman he loves. Vendulka also loves Lukáš and is happy to marry him. However, when Lukáš wants to kiss her, she refuses. Vendulka says it is not respectful to his late wife. She believes they should wait until after the wedding.

Lukáš becomes angry. He feels that Vendulka does not love him enough. To make her jealous, he kisses other village girls in front of her. Vendulka is very hurt and runs away to her aunt Martinka's house.

At her aunt's home, Vendulka feels safe but sad. Martinka and the other women of the village support her. Meanwhile, Lukáš begins to regret his actions. His friend Tomeš tells him that he made a mistake. Lukáš understands that he was wrong and decides to apologize to Vendulka.

When Lukáš visits Vendulka at her aunt's house, he tells her he is sorry. He explains that he acted out of anger but truly loves her. Vendulka forgives him, and they share a kiss, sealing their love.

In the end, the couple is happy, and the wedding can finally take place.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why does Lukáš want to marry Vendulka?
2. Why does Vendulka refuse to kiss Lukáš before the wedding?
3. How does Lukáš try to make Vendulka jealous?
4. Where does Vendulka go when she feels sad?
5. Who helps Lukáš understand that he was wrong?
6. How does Lukáš show Vendulka that he is sorry?
7. What is the final outcome of the story?

Vocabulary List (English – Slovak):

- **widower** – vdovec
- **late (wife)** – zosnulá (manželka)
- **respectful** – úctivý
- **jealous** – žiarlivý
- **hurt** – zranený, smutný
- **regret** – ľutovať
- **apologize** – ospravedlniť sa
- **forgive** – odpustiť
- **wedding** – svadba
- **village** – dedina
- **anger** – hnev
- **support** – podpora
- **safe** – v bezpečí
- **mistake** – chyba