

„Where's the boy for me?" – Die handlungsorientierte Erarbeitung einer Short Story unter Einführung abiturrelevanter Aufgabenformate (ab Klasse 10)

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M 1 It's complicated ...

Look at the following picture. It hints at the topic of the short story we are going to deal with.



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Tasks

1. Describe the picture.
2. Explain its meaning.
3. State the topic of the short story we are going to read.

M 2 How to write a summary

Writing a summary means briefly stating the most important information of a given text in your own words. You must not include your opinion or even an interpretation, but just briefly summarise the text's main aspects.

Task: Give a concise (using few words, only including important information) account of the main points of a text ("Summarise ...", "Write a summary ...").

1. Before writing

- ✓ Read the text carefully. Look up words you do not know.
- ✓ Take a pen and highlight important key words and key phrases.
- ✓ Take notes on important facts.
- ✓ Leave out information that is unimportant.

2. While writing

- ✓ Begin your summary with an introductory sentence (genre, title, author, main idea).
- ✓ Briefly summarize the content.
- ✓ Use the simple present.
- ✓ Follow your notes and use your own words.

3. After writing

Proofread your summary for mistakes. A good summary ...

- has got an introductory sentence.
- is written in the simple present.
- is divided into paragraphs.
- answers all "W-questions" (who?, what?, when?, where?, why?).
- is precise and short (about 1/3 of the original text).
- uses connectives.
- does not give quotes.
- does not give any details.
- does not use direct speech.
- does not copy sentences from the text.
- does not give a personal opinion (I think, in my opinion...).
- does not use short forms (don't, can't, isn't, ...).



M 6 Worksheet: Hidden thoughts

Imagine you are Debbie/Helen now. What are you thinking during your conversation?

Task: Write down the thoughts of the characters.

[...]

“What’s wrong with me?” I wailed plaintively. “Pete practically ignores me and Dave treats me like an elderly relation!”

Debbie’s thoughts: _____

5 Helen grinned. “Not a thing,” she replied. “You look all right to me – a bit young maybe, but ...”

Helen’s thoughts: _____

“Young?” I spluttered indignantly. “I’m the same age as you!”

Debbie: _____

10 “I know that! But, well, there’s something young about you.” She smiled apologetically. “I’m not being much help, am I?”

Helen: _____

“Oh. I wouldn’t say that,” I replied, through clenched teeth. “But what exactly am I supposed to do until the years begin to take their toll? Wear a bag on my head?”

Debbie: _____

15 “It might help!” Helen giggled. “No, seriously, Debbie, you could try a more sophisticated hair-style, or revamp your make-up, but I think there’s more to it than that.”

Helen: _____

She paused, “Have you ever broken out with a boy, have you?”

Helen: _____

20 “No!” I said grumpily. “That is the whole point!”

Debbie: _____

“All right, I know! I was just thinking ... boys’ minds work in pretty mysterious ways, sometimes. It seems to me that the very fact you haven’t got a boyfriend might be putting them off.”

Helen: _____

I stared at her. “Eh?” I said, intelligently.

Debbie: _____

“Well, you haven’t got a boyfriend, so every boy you meet thinks you’re after him. And I suppose you are, really, so you seem a bit too pushy and eager, and put him off ... Does that make sense?”



M 11 Good angel vs bad angel

Shall I do it? Or better not? Everybody’s conscience is divided into two parts. You can compare these parts to a good angel and a bad angel, sitting on your shoulders and trying to pull you in different directions.



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Tasks

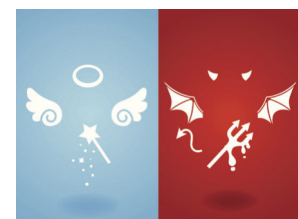
1. Describe the picture.
2. Explain its meaning.
3. When you think of the short story which we have just read – in which way could this picture relate to the story?

M 12 Debbie’s inner conflict

Let’s find out more about Debbie’s inner conflict ...

Tasks

Work together with a partner. One of you is Debbie’s good angel, who wants her to stay with Danny as he is cute and lovable. The other one is her bad angel, arguing for ditching Danny and following the plan to get her dream boy.



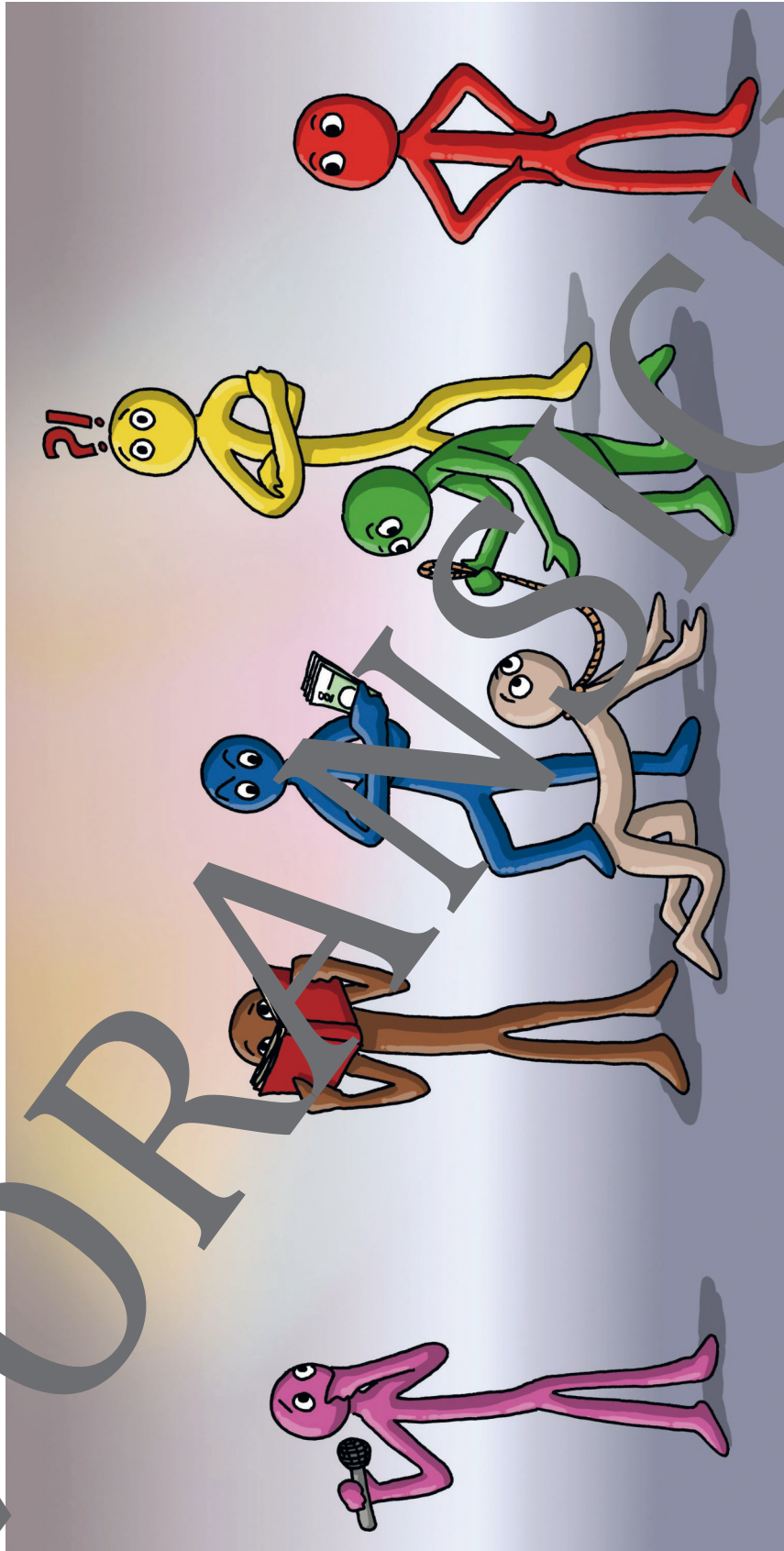
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1. Put yourself in Debbie’s shoes. What could be going on in her mind after the great date with Danny and the flattering reactions of the other boys at the club? Collect arguments for your role.
2. Talk to your partner and discuss your arguments. Use these to write a “*conversation of conscience*” (*Gewissensdialog*) between Debbie’s good angel and bad angel.
3. Practise your dialogue and be prepared to act it out in class!

Time allowed: 25 minutes

M 1 Every body freeze!

An example of what a freeze frame could look like.



Tasks

1. Describe the picture. Mention every detail. Also talk about body language and postures!
2. Which adjectives would you use to describe the different stickmen? Justify your choices.

M 17 Amanda Mandinian: *Where’s the boy for me?*

Part 1

I suppose I was getting a bit desperate. Not desperately desperate, you understand, but things definitely weren't going my way and I didn't know what to do about it. What did I want? A boyfriend. Why hadn't I got one? Heaven only knew – I certainly didn't!

I tried to be friendly, to join in the chat and general teasing at school, but somehow I always got it wrong. Lots of boys used to talk to Helen, my best friend, but my efforts seemed doomed to fail from the start. Pete Matthews, for example, was my idea of the ideal boy, and as Helen knew him quite well, I thought all I had to do was chat him up at breaktime and leave the rest to him.

Wrong! I joined in as usual, but although I thought he seemed quite interested, he just walked off when the break bell rang, without a second glance. Later, I saw him walking home but although I was alone and there was no-one around to embarrass us, he more or less ignored me, and walked past, just as if I didn't exist. My friendly smile froze – and some girl on the other side of the street giggled. I just knew she'd seen what happened and that she was giggling at me.

It was the same at the disco. Dave was a friend of Pete's and number two on my list of fanciable males, but even though he did ask me to dance – once! – he acted as though he was just doing his duty, instead of enjoying himself. By this stage, my confidence was at an all-time low. I just couldn't see where I was going wrong, but obviously was, so I decided to consult Helen about it. At least *she* seemed to know what she was doing!

“What's wrong with me?” I wailed plaintively. “Pete practically ignores me and Dave treats me like an elderly relation!” Helen grinned. “Not a thing,” she replied. “You look all right to me – a bit young maybe, but ...”

“Young?” I spluttered indignantly. “I'm the same age as you!”

“I know that! But, well, there's something young about you.” She smiled apologetically. “I'm not being much help, am I?”

“Oh. I wouldn't say that,” I replied through clenched teeth. “But what exactly am I supposed to do until the years begin to take their toll, well, hang on my head?”

“It might help!” Helen giggled. “Not seriously, of course, but you could try a more sophisticated hair-style, or revamp your make-up, but I think there's more to it than that.”

She paused, “You've never actually been out with a boy, have you?”

“No!” I said glumly. “I'm not the whole point!”

“All right, I know! I was just thinking ... boys' minds work in pretty mysterious ways, sometimes. It seems to me that every fancy you've got a boyfriend might be putting them off.”

I stared at her. “Eh?” I asked, intelligently.

“Well, you haven't got a boyfriend, so every boy you meet thinks you're after him. And I suppose you are, really, so you seem a bit too pushy and eager, and put him off ... Does that make sense?”

“I think so.” I said slowly. “But it's a vicious circle, isn't it? I need to have a boyfriend to get a boyfriend. But the whole problem is that I can't get a boyfriend in the first place ...” I groaned.

Helen winked wickedly. “Well, if you're really desperate, you have got one admirer!”

“Who?”

“That boy who lives next door to you – the one you say you can't stand!”

“Oh, *Danny*! But I don't fancy him at all! I've known him for years!”

Helen cut me short. “Now just hang on a minute. I think I've got an idea ...”

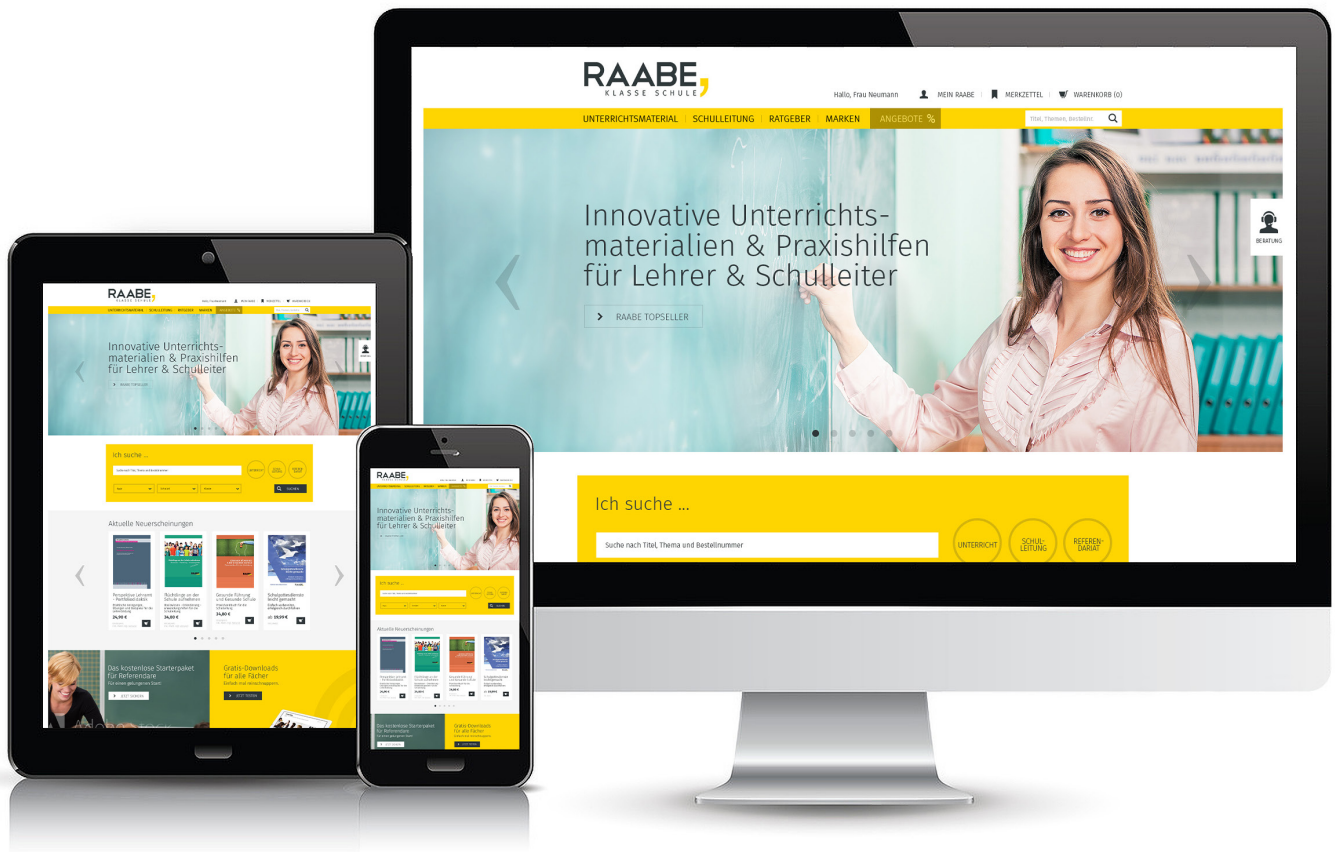
My half-hour was extremely enlightening. According to Helen, I should agree to go out with *Danny*, who, fortunately enough, had been keen on me for ages. That would get me into the swing of things.

“Then,” said Helen triumphantly, “you can see how things work out and take it from there!”

“Take what from there?” I muttered gloomily, picturing myself tied to *Danny* for life.

“Oh, Deb, you are slow! By then, lots of other boys will have noticed you and some of them are bound

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