



Zentrale schriftliche Abiturprüfung

2005

Englisch

Grundkurs

Aufgabenstellung 1

für Schülerinnen und Schüler

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Thema/Inhalt: | Living in a Multicultural Society/"You're Not English!" |
| Hilfsmittel: | einsprachiges Wörterbuch |
| Bearbeitungszeit: | 3 Zeitstunden |

Assignments

Comprehension

1. Summarize the excerpt from the novel.

Analysis

2. Analyse the means employed to characterize Joyce.

Comment

3. Comment on Joyce's behaviour and attitudes as a first-generation immigrant.

You're Not English!

Note:

After his return from Hong Kong to his native London, the narrator gets acquainted with a Chinese family running a restaurant. In this excerpt, he and his mother go to pay their Chinese friends a visit.

[...]

There's a voice raised inside the Shanghai Dragon. A woman's voice. My mother and I hesitate for a moment and then go inside.

5 It is cool and dark in the restaurant. We are expecting to find the entire family clustered around the dining table, happily eating their soup and noodles. But tonight there is only Joyce and her small grandson. She seems very angry with him, and barks at him in a mixture of English and Cantonese.

'You think you're English?' she asks him. A blast of Cantonese. 'Look at your face in the mirror!' Some more Cantonese. 'Look at your face! You're not English!'

10 Although he can't be more than five years old, the boy is bent over some homework. He is writing in his little exercise book, his big beautiful moon face all damp with tears.

'You are Chinese! You have Chinese face! You will always have Chinese face!' Some Cantonese. 'You have to be smarter than English!'

15 Joyce notices us hovering in the doorway. She looks at us without embarrassment. I realise that I can't imagine Joyce ever feeling embarrassed about anything.

'Hello!' she seems to shout. She is still very excited. 'Didn't see you. I don't have eyes in the back of my face.'

'Is this a bad time?' I say.

'What? Bad time? No. Just teaching cheeky grandson that he has to work hard.'

20 'He seems very young to be doing homework,' my mother says.

'Father sets homework. Not school. School just let them do anything. Relax. Watch television. Watch video games. Just relax. Like millionaires. Like playboys. As though the world owes them a loving.'

'I know, I know,' my mother says. My mother sighs, staring sympathetically at the child.

25 'What's your name, darling?'

He says nothing.

'Answer lady!' Joyce roars like a sergeant major faced with a dopey private.

'William,' he says. A tiny voice, full of tears.

30 'Like Prince William,' Joyce says. She ruffles his thick mop of shiny black hair, pinches his smooth round cheek. 'Sister called Diana. Like Princess Diana.'

'What lovely names,' my mother says. [...]

He stares up at her with blank wet eyes.

'You tried ginseng yet?' demands Joyce.

'Not yet. That's what we –'

35 'Good for you.' Her fierce brown eyes blaze at my mother. 'Especially women. Older ladies. But not just older ladies.' She looks at me. 'Good for when you not sleep. Tired all the time. Feeling – how to say? – a bit run over.'

'Run down.'

'Yes. Run over.' She pushes her face close to mine. 'You looking a bit run over, mister.'

40 'Just what I need!' says my mum, clapping her hands with delight.

Joyce offers us tea – English tea, she calls it – but we make our excuses and leave. Before we are out of the door, Joyce is shouting at William about having a Chinese face.

And for the first time I get a sense of how hard it is when you want to become international.

(500 words)

Quelle

Parsons, Tony (2001): One for My Baby, London, HarperCollinsPublishers, pp. 107-109

Annotations

lines

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2 | Shanghai Dragon | - restaurant owned by Joyce's family |
| 7 | Cantonese | - Chinese dialect |
| 22/23 | the world owes them a loving | - originally: the world owes you a living; used if so. is unwilling to work in order to get things; to show disapproval |
| 27 | dopey private | - (sl.) stupid soldier |



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Grundkurs

Aufgabenstellung 2

für Schülerinnen und Schüler

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Thema/Inhalt: | One world – global issues/“Vandana Shiva – Seeds of Self-Reliance” |
| Hilfsmittel: | einsprachiges Wörterbuch |
| Bearbeitungszeit: | 3 Zeitstunden |

Assignments

Comprehension

1. What information is given about Shiva’s background and upbringing as well as her career?

Analysis

2. Analyse the stylistic means the author employs to convey his attitude towards Vandana Shiva and her commitment.

Comment

Choose **one** of the following assignments.

- 3.1 “You are not Atlas carrying the world on your shoulder [...]. It is good to remember that the planet is carrying you” (cf. ll. 45-47). Explain Shiva’s conclusion and comment on her attitude.
- 3.2 Write a letter to the editor of TIME expressing your views on Shiva’s and Navdanya’s contribution to the protection of the environment.

Vandana Shiva - Seeds of Self-Reliance by Meenakshi Ganguly

Vandana Shiva will never forget a lesson she learned at the age of 13. Her parents, who like many educated Indians had supported Mohandas Gandhi's struggle against colonialism, insisted on wearing clothing made only of homespun cotton. One day Vandana, having returned from a boarding school to her home in the Himalayan foothill town of Dehra Dun, demanded a nylon dress, the fashion adopted by her rich friends. Her mother, a teacher turned farmer, agreed. "If that is what you want, of course you shall have it," she said. "But remember, your nylon frock will help a rich man buy a bigger car. And the cotton that you wear will buy a poor family at least one meal."

Now 50, Shiva still chuckles when she tells the story. "Of course, I did not get that frock," she says. "I kept thinking of some poor family starving because of my dress." True to her upbringing, Shiva has made it her mission to fight for social justice in many arenas. With a doctorate in physics from the University of Western Ontario, she has been a teacher, an ecologist, an activist, a feminist and an organic farmer.

Her pet issue these days is preservation of agricultural diversity. It is under assault, she says, from global companies that encourage farmers to grow so-called highyielding crops that result in a dangerous dependence on bioengineered seeds, chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides. As a result, hundreds of traditional crops are disappearing. Too many farmers, she contends, purchase expensive seeds that cannot adapt to local conditions and require more investment in chemicals and irrigation. Hundreds of debt-ridden Indian farmers, Shiva points out, have committed suicide during the past five years because of failed harvests.

But there is hope. Many farmers are returning to traditional methods promoted by Navdanya (Nine Seeds), an organization based in New Delhi that Shiva helped found 11 years ago. Navdanya encourages farmers to produce hardy native varieties of crops that can be grown organically with natural fertilizer and no artificial chemicals. The group works in an area for three years, helping local farmers form their own selfsupporting organization and seed bank. Navdanya has spread to some 80 districts in 12 states and has collected more than 2,000 seed varieties. It has set up a marketing network through which farmers sell their organic harvest. Farmer Darwan Singh Negi, with Navdanya's aid, switched to organic methods five years ago and grows six types of rice on his three-acre farm in the state of Uttaranchal. His farm's productivity is similar to that of his neighbors' nonorganic farms, but he spends almost 70 percent less for fertilizers, pesticides and seeds.

Shiva's many detractors call her naive, pointing out that chemical fertilizers, pesticides and genetic engineering rescued India from its eternal cycles of famine and huge debts from importing food. She responds that high-tech agriculture is a short-term solution that will ultimately destroy the land. Shiva has by no means proved that organic agriculture alone can feed a burgeoning world population. But Navdanya has shown that in some areas, organic farmers with a knowledge of local conditions and traditional methods can achieve high yields at little cost to the environment. In India at least, Navdanya sets an eco-friendly standard that agribusiness must show it can outperform. The challenge for genetic engineers is to create seeds adapted to particular locales that enable farmers to reduce, not increase, the use of chemicals.

If nothing else, Navdanya provides an alternative approach to modern farming. Shiva wants to preserve nature's bountiful variety in a world too vulnerable to humanity's penchant for standardization. She counsels us to be more humble in the care of our environment. "You are not Atlas carrying the world on your shoulder," she says. "It is good to remember that the planet is carrying you."

(664 words)

Quelle

Ganguly, Meenakshi (2002): Time Magazine, August 26

Annotations

lines

- 2 Mohandas Gandhi** – Indian nationalist leader (1869-1948), also known as Mahatma Gandhi, led the struggle for independence from Britain pursuing a policy of non-violence
- 3 homespun cotton** – cotton woven on small farms in India
- 5/6 teacher turned farmer** – s. o. who used to be a teacher but is now a farmer
- 12 Ontario** – second largest province of Canada
- 15 highyielding** – producing a large amount
- 19 irrigation** – supply of land or crops with water
- 33 detractor** – critic, opponent
- 37 burgeoning** – growing quickly
- 44 penchant** – liking for, tendency towards
- 46 Atlas** – in Greek mythology a Titan supporting the pillars of heaven on his shoulders; anyone bearing a great burden



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Englisch

Grundkurs

Aufgabenstellung 3

für Schülerinnen und Schüler

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Thema/Inhalt: | Emotions and drives/“Son's essay a revelation“ |
| Hilfsmittel: | einsprachiges Wörterbuch |
| Bearbeitungszeit: | 3 Zeitstunden |

Assignments

Comprehension

1. Outline the author's memories and thoughts after he has read a new parenting study.

Analysis

2. Analyse the stylistic devices the author employs to show parents that they should not underestimate their positive influence on their children.

Comment

3. From a teenager's point of view write a letter to the editor commenting on L. Pitts Jr.'s insight that parents are often too concerned about successful parenting.

Son's essay a revelation by Leonard Pitts Jr.

So it's parents' night at school, and I'm there on behalf of my youngest son. I look at him sometimes and see a toddler with a gap in his grin and a penchant for gnawing his toes. But that's just a memory lie. The toddler is a teenager two inches taller than I am, a youngster on the cusp of manhood.

5 It hasn't been a fun passage. Last year, we went through a phase where he seemed to feel compelled to challenge everything I said, down to and including, "Hello." These days, he doesn't so much challenge me as endure me. My son has perfected the thousand-yard stare, eyes fixed on something beyond your line of sight while you're yammering on about a good work ethic, the importance of education or some other bit of useless arcana from the book of responsible adulthood.

10 There is nothing quite as effective as a teenager for making one feel like a moron.

So anyway, I'm at parents' night. It's just me – my wife is with one of the other kids, my son couldn't be bothered. I'm in his social studies class, and I ask to see some of his work. The teacher finds his folder, I page through his papers, and I come across a short essay:

15 The Person I Most Admire.

Turns out it's two people. Some rap entrepreneur ... and me. Most of the essay, in fact, is about the overall wonderfulness of me – about the lessons I've taught my son and the ways I've shaped his life.

20 To say I was shocked is to understate by half. I guess you never know, do you? You flat-out never know.

This episode came to my mind a few days ago as I absorbed the results of a new parenting study, A Lot Easier Said Than Done, by Public Agenda, a nonprofit, nonpartisan group in New York City. The study – you'll find it on the group's website, www.publicagenda.org - produced a number of fascinating statistics on parents and parenting.

25 One set of questions from the survey particularly intrigued me. It sought to ascertain how good a job parents feel they've done in transmitting basic values to their children.

The short answer: not very good.

30 You're anxious about what sort of job you're doing, what kind of adult you're creating. You struggle against the amorality of media, the cockiness of youth, the influence of peers and, most of all, the inadequacy of self, trying to ensure that the people your children become are, at heart, decent, responsible and good. But in the end, you wonder, you worry and you doubt. Because some days – most days – you'd swear they never hear a word you say.

35 I had to wonder if my son left that essay for me to find, but it seems unlikely. The students' work folders weren't put out for parental inspection, and he had no way of knowing I would request to see his.

Maybe I should have asked him about what he had written, but I didn't know what to say and didn't want to embarrass him. So he'll never know I saw it – unless, I suppose, he happens across this column someday.

40 If so, I hope it's after he has had some children of his own and experienced what it's like to want for them, to desire desperately and without regard to self, the very best for them. And to receive, in response, the thousand-yard stare and heavy sigh of someone who is being forced to endure an idiot's blather.

When he knows what that feels like, maybe he'll know why I made a copy of his essay. And why I put it in a trunk of things I mean to keep, always.

(622 words)

Quelle

The Miami Herald, published Nov.04, 2002

Annotations

lines

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| 2 | penchant | – a tendency to do something |
| 4 | cusps | – a time when one situation or stage ends and another begins |
| 9 | arcana | – (fml.) here: mystery |
| 19 | flat-out | – here: really |
| 22 | nonpartisan | – neutral, not supporting particular groups of people |
| 25 | sought | – past tense of 'to seek' |
| 29 | cockiness | – here: arrogance |
| 30 | self | – here: one's personality |
| 42 | blather | – (infml.) to talk for a long time about something that is boring or not important |