



Englisch

Leistungskurs

Aufgabenstellung 1

für Schülerinnen und Schüler

Thema/Inhalt:	Living in a multicultural society/"A Place at the Table"
Hilfsmittel:	einsprachiges Wörterbuch
Bearbeitungszeit:	4 Zeitstunden

Assignments

Comprehension

1. Summarize the reasons for the authors' concerns expressed in their article and their suggestions to ease the situation.

Analysis

2. Analyse the structural and stylistic devices the authors employ to achieve credibility and to attract the reader's attention.

Comment

Choose one of the following assignments.

- 3.1 Comment on the suggestions the authors make to improve the relationship between non-Muslim Europeans and European Muslims.
- 3.2 Write a letter to the editor voicing your opinion on the issues presented in the article.

A Place at the Table by Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon

To reduce alienation – and militancy – among Muslims, Europe must invite them in

5 Europe was the springboard for the Sept.11 attacks. The terrorists may have been Middle Eastern, but Europe was their base camp. Since Sept.11, European authorities have acted decisively, arresting more than 200 suspected terrorists. Although the radical networks remain well ensconced, sustained police work will make another major attack much tougher to execute. But that's not good enough. Radical Islamists value Europe not only because it offered a safe haven for them but because they look to it as a breeding ground for the next generation of terrorists.

10 For all the achievements of their democracies, most Europeans still lack the knack for pluralism. The Continent's immigrant Muslim communities grew up, to a large extent, from guest workers and postcolonial émigrés grateful for the stability and prosperity of postwar Europe. Too many of their children, though, nourish the wounds of social and economic exclusion. For them, militant Islam provides an identity and an explanation for their inferior status; it gives a powerful voice to their resentment, and defines a proud and confrontational response.

15 In the U.K., where the Muslim prison population has doubled in the last decade, some polls found a near majority of young Muslims unwilling to fight for Britain, but willing to take up arms for Osama bin Laden. Britain's security service estimates that at least 3,000 British Muslim youths migrated to Afghanistan for training and religious indoctrination during the 1990s. Other European countries have not released figures, but the French and German presence among detainees at Guantanamo Bay confirms that British jihadis were not the only Europeans gravitating to the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

25 A reformation of sorts is under way in the Islamic world and, much as in the European one five centuries ago, a militant puritanism is on the rise. Europe has not been spared. A sterner form of the religion – one that demands universal application of Shari`a, asserts the superiority of Islam and rejects assimilation with non-Muslim societies – is supplanting the more flexible faith that long prevailed in the diaspora. Fueled by Wahhabi funds from the Persian Gulf and radical interpretation of the Koran, Muslim preachers insist that their European congregants are living in *dar al-harb*, the realm of war. They seek to reshape European Muslim communities into virtual ghettos. By mirroring the de facto separatism fostered by European attitudes, radical imams have created fertile ground for the recruitment and protection of terrorists.

30 Throughout Europe, Muslims suffer high unemployment, poor health and low literacy rates. Nowhere do they enjoy proportional representation in parliaments. With job shortages worsening, there is little prospect of opportunity trickling down to young Muslims. As bin Ladenism proliferates through mosques and websites, the conditions that contribute to the appeal of radical Islam in Europe are showing signs of permanence. And theological expressions of discontent are turning secular complaints into non – negotiable religious causes.

35 There is a challenge here for Europeans and their leaders, too many of whom are in denial about the irrevocable heterogeneity of their societies. What can be done? As a first step, European countries should develop their own version of affirmative action, the effort that the U.S. has for decades pressed to provide minorities with better access to education, jobs and housing. The American experience has been far from perfect, but the overall results have been impressive. A vigorous move in this direction would help reduce Muslim alienation. European countries should do more to underwrite state-affiliated mosques and integrate Islamic instruction into schools. Only governments can match the largesse of wealthy Wahhabi mosque builders and provide the schools, houses of worship and clerics to compete with the radicals.

50 Perhaps the most dramatic way to show European Muslims that their world is an inclusive one is to set a date for the start of E.U. accession talks for Turkey, which could happen at this week's E.U. summit. Turkey has made most legislative changes required by the E.U. – albeit with some significant loopholes – and its new Islamist government has pledged itself to European ideals of pluralism and tolerance. If Europe wishes to take a major step toward embracing its Muslims – and preempting the clash of civilizations that al-Qaeda seeks – it will set the process in motion.

(Steven Simon and Daniel Benjamin served as advisers to the U.S. National Security Council from 1994 –99)

(716 words)

Quelle

Benjamin, Daniel/Simon, Steven: TIME Published December 16, 2002; p. 56

Annotations

lines

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--|
| 4 | well ensconced | – (lit.) positioned comfortably or safely somewhere |
| 17 | Osama bin Laden | – leader of the terrorist al-Qaeda network that carried out the attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, 2001 |
| 20 | Guantanamo Bay | – U.S. naval base situated on the southeast coast of Cuba; partly used as a prison for people of around 40 different nations |
| 20 | jihadis | – Muslims who fight the “holy war” for Islam |
| 21 | Taliban | – Islamist movement in Afghanistan; their aim is to set up the world's most pure Islamist state |
| 22 | a reformation of sorts | – here: a kind of reformation (slightly derogatory) |
| 24 | Shari`a | – traditional laws in Islamic countries |
| 26 | Wahhabi funds | – fund of radical Islamists, following the teachings of Mohammed Ibn Abdul Wahhab Najdi (1699-1792) |
| 28 | congregants | – members of a religious community |
| 30 | imam | – a Muslim priest or leader |
| 40 | affirmative action | – U.S., a programme that promotes the employment and education of women and minority groups |



Englisch

Leistungskurs

Aufgabenstellung 2

für Schülerinnen und Schüler

Thema/Inhalt:	Emotions and drives/"No One's A Mystery"
Hilfsmittel:	einsprachiges Wörterbuch
Bearbeitungszeit:	4 Zeitstunden

Assignments

Comprehension

1. Summarize the text.

Analysis

2. Analyse the means the author uses to create the "bittersweet" atmosphere in the story.

Comment / Creative writing

Choose **one** of the following assignments.

- 3.1 Comment on the relationship between Jack and the narrator.
- 3.2 On the last page of her five-year diary, in a longer entry, the woman reflects on the talk on her 18th birthday, her dreams she had then and what has become of her since. Write this entry.

No One's A Mystery by Elizabeth Tallent

- For my eighteenth birthday Jack gave me a five-year diary with a latch and a little key, light as a dime. I was sitting beside him scratching at the lock, which didn't seem to want to work, when he thought he saw his wife's Cadillac in the distance, coming toward us. He pushed me down onto the dirty floor of the pickup and kept one hand on my head while I inhaled the musk of his cigarettes in the dashboard ashtray and sang along with Rosanne Cash on the tape deck. We'd been drinking tequila and the bottle was between his legs, resting up against his crotch, where the seam of his Levi's was bleached linen-white, though the Levi's were nearly new. I don't know why his Levi's always bleached like that, along the seams and at the knees. In a curve of cloth his zipper glinted, gold.
- 5
- 10 "It's her," he said. "She keeps the lights on in the daytime. I can't think of a single habit in a woman that irritates me more than that." When he saw that I was going to stay still he took his hand from my head and ran it through his own dark hair.
- "Why does she?" I said.
- 15 "She thinks it's safer. Why does she need to be safer? She's driving exactly fifty-five miles an hour. She believes in those signs: 'Speed Monitored by Aircraft.' It doesn't matter that you can look up and see that the sky is empty."
- "She'll see your lips move, Jack. She'll know you're talking to someone."
- "She'll think I'm singing along with the radio."
- 20 He didn't lift his hand, just raised the fingers in salute while the pressure of his palm steadied the wheel, and I heard the Cadillac honk twice, musically; he was driving easily eighty miles an hour. I studied his boots. The elk heads stitched into the leather were bearded with frayed thread, the toes were scuffed, and there was a compact wedge of muddy manure between the heel and the sole – the same boots he'd been wearing for the two years I'd known him. On the tape deck Rosanne Cash sang, "Nobody's into me, no one's a mystery."
- 25 "Do you think she's getting famous because of who her daddy is or for herself?" Jack said.
- "There are about a hundred pop tops on the floor, did you know that? Some little kid could cut a bare foot on one of these, Jack."
- "No little kids get into this truck except for you."
- "How come you let it get so dirty?"
- 30 "How come," he mocked. "You even sound like a kid. You can get back into the seat now, if you want. She's not going to look over her shoulder and see you."
- "How do you know?"
- "I just know," he said. "Like I know I'm going to get meat loaf for supper. It's in the air. Like I know what you'll be writing in that diary."
- 35 "What will I be writing?" I knelt on my side of the seat and craned around to look at the butterfly of dust printed on my jeans. Outside the window Wyoming was dazzling in the heat. The wheat was fawn and yellow and parted smoothly by the thin dirt road.[...]
- "Tonight you'll write, 'I love Jack. This is my birthday present from him. I can't imagine anybody loving anybody more than I love Jack.'"
- 40 "I can't."
- "In a year you'll write, 'I wonder what I ever really saw in Jack. I wonder why I spent so many days just riding around in his pickup. It's true he taught me something about sex. It's true there wasn't ever much else to do in Cheyenne.'"

- "I won't write that."
- 45 "In two years you'll write, 'I wonder what that old guy's name was, the one with the curly hair and the filthy dirty pickup truck and time on his hands.'"
- "I won't write that."
- "No?"
- 50 "Tonight I'll write, 'I love Jack. This is my birthday present from him. I can't imagine anybody loving anybody more than I love Jack.'"
- "No, you can't," he said. "You can't imagine it."
- "In a year I'll write, 'Jack should be home any minute now. The table's set – my grandmother's linen and her old silver and the yellow candles left over from the wedding – but I don't know if I can wait until after the trout a la Navarra to make love to him.'"
- 55 "It must have been a fast divorce."
- "In two years I'll write, 'Jack should be home by now. Little Jack is hungry for his supper. He said his first word today besides "Mama" and "Papa." He said "kaka.'"
- Jack laughed. "He was probably trying to finger-paint with kaka on the bathroom wall when you heard him say it."
- 60 "In three years I'll write, 'My nipples are a little sore from nursing Eliza Rosamund.'"
- "Rosamund. Every little girl should have a middle name she hates."
- "Her breath smells like vanilla and her eyes are just Jack's color of blue."
- "That's nice," Jack said.
- "So, which one do you like?"
- 65 "I like yours," he said. "But I believe mine."
- "It doesn't matter. I believe mine."
- "Not in your heart of hearts, you don't."
- "You're wrong."
- 70 "I'm not wrong," he said. "And her breath would smell like your milk and it's kind of a bittersweet smell, if you want to know the truth."

(896 words)

Quelle

Elizabeth Tallent, (1985), "No One's A Mystery" in: Sudden Fiction – American Short-Short Stories; Peregrine Smith's Books, Salt Lake City, 1986 pp.47-49

Annotations

lines

- 5 Rosanne Cash** – country singer and daughter of the late Johnny Cash, a famous country singer
- 26 pop tops** – metal lids with an attached ring to open soft drink and beer cans
- 37 fawn** – light greyish brown
- 54 trout a la Navarra** – a fancy dish of fish
- 57 "kaka"** – baby talk



Englisch

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Aufgabenstellung 3

für Schülerinnen und Schüler

Thema/Inhalt:	Gender Issues/“Why The M Word Matters To Me”
Hilfsmittel:	einsprachiges Wörterbuch
Bearbeitungszeit:	4 Zeitstunden

Assignments

Comprehension

1. Outline the author’s experience of being different.

Analysis

2. Analyse the stylistic means employed by A. Sullivan to create empathy among his readers.

Comment

3. Discuss Sullivan’s view on the importance of marriage.

Why The M Word Matters To Me by Andrew Sullivan

5 As a child, I had no idea what homosexuality was. I grew up in a traditional home – Catholic, conservative, middle class. Life was relatively simple: education, work, family. I was raised to aim high in life, even though my parents hadn't gone to college. But one thing was instilled in me. What mattered was not how far you went in life, how much money you earned, how big a name you made for yourself. What really mattered was family and the love you had for one another. The most important day of your life was not graduation from college or your first day at work or a raise or even your first house. The most important day of your life was when you got married. It was on that day that all your friends and all your family got together to celebrate the most important thing in life: your happiness – your ability to make a new home, to form a new but connected family, to find love that put everything else into perspective.

10 But as I grew older, I found that this was somehow not available to me. I didn't feel the things for girls that my peers did. All the emotions and social rituals and bonding of teenage heterosexual life eluded me. I didn't know why. No one explained it. My emotional bonds to other boys were one-sided; each time I felt myself falling in love, they sensed it, pushed it away. I didn't and couldn't blame them. I got along fine with my buds in a nonemotional context, but something was awry, something not right. I came to know almost instinctively that I would never be a part of my family the way my siblings might one day be. The love I had inside me was unmentionable, anathema. I remember writing in my teenage journal one day, "I'm a professional human being. But what do I do in my private life?"

20 I never discussed my real life. I couldn't date girls and so immersed myself in schoolwork, the debate team, school plays, anything to give me an excuse not to confront reality. When I looked toward the years ahead, I couldn't see a future. There was just a void. Was I going to be alone my whole life? Would I ever have a most important day in my life? It seemed impossible, a negation, an undoing. To be a full part of my family, I had to somehow not be me. So, like many other gay teens, I withdrew, became neurotic, depressed, at times close to suicidal. I shut myself in my room with my books night after night while my peers developed the skills needed to form real relationships and loves. In wounded pride, I even voiced a rejection of family and marriage. It was the only way I could explain my isolation.

30 It took years for me to realize that I was gay, years more to tell others and more time yet to form any kind of stable emotional bond with another man. Because my sexuality had emerged in solitude – and without any link to the idea of an actual relationship – it was hard later to reconnect sex to love and self-esteem. It still is. But I persevered, each relationship slowly growing longer than the last, learning in my 20s and 30s what my straight friends had found out in their teens. But even then my parents and friends never asked the question they would have asked automatically if I were straight: So, when are you going to get married? When will we be able to celebrate it and affirm it and support it? In fact, no one – no one – has yet asked me that question.

40 When people talk about gay marriage, they miss the point. This isn't about gay marriage. It's about marriage. It's about family. It's about love. It isn't about religion. It's about civil marriage licenses. Churches can and should have the right to say no to marriage for gays in their congregations, just as Catholics say no to divorce, but divorce is still a civil option. These family values are not options for a happy and stable life. They are necessities. Putting gay relationships in some other category – civil unions, domestic partnerships, whatever – may alleviate real human needs, but by their very euphemism, by their very separateness, they actually build a wall between gay people and their families. They put back the barrier many of us have spent a lifetime trying to erase. It's too late for me to undo my past. But I want above everything else to remember a young kid out there who may even be reading this now. I want to let him know that he doesn't have to choose between himself and his family anymore. I

50 want him to know that his love has dignity, that he does indeed have a future as a full and equal part of the human race. Only marriage will do that. Only marriage can bring him home.

(837 words)

Quelle

Sullivan, A. "Why The M Word Matters". TIME.com: TIME Magazine Monday, Feb. 16, 2004

Annotations

line

- 18 anathema** – here: the opposite of what you strongly believe in, a taboo issue
- 39/40 civil marriage license** – document of marriage issued by state authorities