

UNTERRICHTS MATERIALIEN

Englisch Sek. II



VORANSICHT

The Circle by Dave Eggers – dystopia or reality?

Einen dystopischen Roman mit unserer Wirklichkeit vergleichen
und über Chancen und Risiken moderner Technologien diskutieren

Themenkreis „Novel“

The Circle by Dave Eggers – dystopia or reality?

by Xenia Riedl

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Kompetenzprofil



- Niveaustufe: B2/C1 (Europäischer Referenzrahmen)
- Kompetenzbereiche: *Reading, speaking, writing, audio-visual comprehension*
- Aufgabenformate: *Working with texts, pre-reading activities, hot seat, analysing language and style, creating a topic web, analysing quotations, discussion, research, presentation, working with pictures, analysing a cartoon, creative writing, drawing a storyboard, plot scramble, composition/comment, working with a film*
- Medien: Roman, Fotos, Zeitungsartikel, Cartoon, Film
- fachübergreifende Aspekte: Gesellschaft, Politik, Ethik

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Survey of topics and methods

Main focus	Pre-reading activity	Working with the text	Comment	Hot seat: interview	Creative writing	Language and style	Analysing a cartoon	Presentation/discussion	Working with a film	Material
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The workplace of the future ■ The importance of a healthy work-life balance 	•	•	•							Topic 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Photos of modern offices ■ <i>The Circle</i>: pp. 117
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The influence of social media on Mae's professional progress 		•		•	•					Topic 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Quotations from <i>The Circle</i> ■ Role cards for a hot seat interview ■ <i>The Circle</i>: Part 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sexism in the high-tech industry ■ Gender equality at the company the Circle 	•	•				•				Topic 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Newspaper article from <i>The Guardian</i>: "The lawyers taking on Silicon Valley sexism" ■ Quotations from <i>The Circle</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The founders of high-tech businesses ■ Conflict between ideals and reality 		•	•				•			Topic 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Article from technology magazine <i>Wired</i>: "The End of the Cult of the Founder" ■ Cartoon: "Bill Gates sees his college adviser"

Main focus	Pre-reading activity	Working with the text	Comment	Hot seat: interview	Creative writing	Language and style	Analysing a cartoon	Presentation/discussion	Working with a film	Material
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Advantages and disadvantages of modern technology 	•	•					•			<p>Topic 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Task cards: The Circle technologies – fiction and reality ■ Role cards for a panel discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Classical dystopian novels: <i>1984</i> and <i>Brave New World</i> ■ Comparison with <i>The Circle</i> 		•					•	•	<p>Topic 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Plot summary of <i>Brave New World</i> by Aldous Huxley ■ Film clip: “George Orwell’s <i>1984</i>”  	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Comparison of novel and film version of <i>The Circle</i> 	•	•						•	<p>Topic 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Glossary of film terms ■ Film: “The Circle”  	



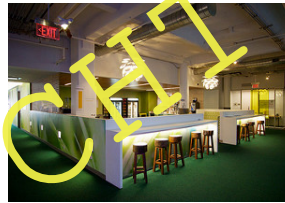
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Worksheet: The workplace of the future

Pre-reading activity

1. Look at the pictures of modern offices and describe what is special about them.

Info: Pictures 2 and 3 show the Google offices in New York.



2. Flash feedback: Would you like to work in a place like this? Why (not)?
Sum up your thoughts in one sentence.

Working with the novel – Use your own words as far as possible

3. Read pages 1–12 of the novel *The Circle* to find out why the protagonist Mae applied for a job at the company. Give evidence from the text.
4. Scan pages 13–70 and sum up what the text tells you about the aims and development of the Circle and about Mae's job at the company.
5. In spite of her enthusiasm, Mae encounters some critical situations in her first weeks at the Circle. Explain why Gina from CircleSocial (pp. 94–101) and Alistair (pp. 105–109) are dissatisfied with Mae's behaviour. What do these incidents show you about Mae's attitude towards her job?

Worksheet: The brains behind the business



Analysing a cartoon

1. Describe what the cartoon shows.
2. Explain and interpret the statement the cartoonist wants to make.
3. Reflect on reasons why Bill Gates has become so successful. You may do some research on his biography.

Matching activity: The “Three Wise Men”

4. The founders of the Circle – Ty Gospodinov, Eamon Bailey and Tom Stenton – have succeeded in creating a company that is “among the best-known in the world” (p. 2). Find out more about the personalities of the “Three Wise Men” (see pp. 15–27). Work with a partner and match their names with the fitting descriptions and quotations.

Descriptions

capitalist

global titan

philanthropist

nerd

do-gooder

genius

Ty Gospodinov

Eamon Bailey

Tom Stenton

Quotations

“In a world where bad choices are no longer an option, we have no choice *but* to be good.” (p. 290)

“I’ve been working on some new projects, lots of very cool things, so I’ve been less social than I should have been.” (p. 468)

“Meanwhile ... there’s another area of public life where we want and expect transparency, and that’s democracy.” (p. 205)

5. Share your results in class and describe the differences between the three characters. What do you think is the secret of their success?

Working with the novel

6. Now read the scene at the aquarium in Book II of the novel (pp. 466–477).
- a) Concentrate on the three animals, whose behaviour patterns resemble that of the Three Wise Men. Match the animals with the characters and explain why the author has chosen these symbols.

Ty Gospodinov



Eamon Bailey



Tom Stilton



- b) Analyse what the experiments in the tank tell the reader about the future development of the Circle.

Working with the article – Use your own words as far as possible

7. Explain what Scott Rosenberg, the author of the article, means by the expression “cult of the founder” in the title.
8. Read the article and decide which of the following statements are true or false. Tick the correct boxes.

- | | true | false |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Silicon Valley entrepreneurs inspire universal admiration. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) High-tech companies are faced with a great number of unexpected social and legal issues today. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Founders of startups are usually not aware of all the consequences of their activities. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Global players like Facebook and Twitter are more successful in dealing with social and political issues than smaller firms. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |