

Camille Acker: *Cicada* – Analysing a short story

Carmen Müntzenberg



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Camille Ackers short story collection „*Training School for Negro Girls*“ bietet Schülerinnen und Schülern beeindruckende Leseerlebnisse, die alle Merkmale einer Kurzgeschichte erfüllen. Ihr Fokus auf Disziplinierung behandelt gegenwärtige gesellschaftliche und politische Themen, was die Aktualität ihres Buches unterstreicht. In der Kurzgeschichte „*Cicada*“ geht es um Ellery, die an einem Klavierwettbewerb teilnimmt und mit Themen wie *identity* und *young in* konfrontiert ist. Die Unterrichtsmaterialien umfassen *pre-, while- und post-reading* Aufgaben, die das Verständnis fördern und die Lernenden zur Reflexion anregen.

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Facts

Notes on the material

1

Topic: Camille Acker: *Cicada*

2

Competences and skills:

When working with the short story, the focus is initially on strengthening students' **reading competence**. This is demonstrated, among other things, through the insights they gain from **analytical skills**. Part of this competency involves enhancing the **intercultural competence**. Furthermore, students optimise their **listening and visual comprehension skills** when they deal with videos. Through the completion of tasks based on the information acquired, students practise their **speaking and social abilities**.

Overview:

List of abbreviations:

A Analysis

D Discussion/debate

LVC Listening/viewing comprehension

R Research

T Working with a text

CT Creative Task

G Group work

PR Presentation

RC Reading comprehension

W Writing

Topic	Material	Methods/Skills
Camille Acker: <i>Cicada</i>	M1-M3	A, CT, F, G, LVC, PR, R, RC, T, W

Edition of the short story used for this unit:

Camille Acker: *Training School for Negro Girls*. Camille Press at the City University of New York. New York 2018. ISBN: 978-1-971932-37-5.

Topic: Camille Acker: *Cicada*

M1 Worksheet – Before reading the short story

Pre-reading activities

1. Focus on competitions.



- Make a list of different competitions. Divide them into competitions everyone could be part of and competitions one needs special qualifications to take part in.
- Give a two-minute-speech about one of the collected competitions. Include your opinion on the importance and effects of competition.
- Now brainstorm in class how one can deal best with defeats.



2. Watch this video about the Schubert Club Music Competition and respond to the tasks. <https://raabe.click/SchubertClub> [last access: 21/10/2023]



- Tick the arguments Ming-Hui enlists in favour of competitions.

<input type="checkbox"/> earn money	<input type="checkbox"/> increase one's experience
<input type="checkbox"/> earn a scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/> gain extra motivation
<input type="checkbox"/> get a chance to perform	<input type="checkbox"/> get a job as a music teacher
<input type="checkbox"/> make new friends	<input type="checkbox"/> practise competing
- Match the sentence parts to complete the musician's arguments. There are two extra completions.

1. Competitions are important	a) to get used to performing in front of an audience.
2. ...performing in front of you	b) gives you the chance to make money.
3. ...taking part in a competition	c) for everyone's education.
	d) for students to practise competing.
	e) to progress with your music.



4. Focus on the language of the short story. Use the group puzzle technique and complete the task using the worksheet below.

Focus on ...	These are examples I found.	This is what the author wants to achieve by using this device
Grammar		
Stylistic devices		
Narrator and point of view		
Style		

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