

Neel Mukherjee: *The Soldier's Tale* – The challenges of migration

Rita Reinheimer-Wolf



© RAABE 2024

© Ben Gingell/Adobe Stock

In der Kurzgeschichte „*The Soldier's Tale*“ von Neel Mukherjee untersucht ein anonymer Erzähler den Antrag eines Asylbewerbers und prüft dessen Angaben auf Unstimmigkeiten und mögliche Fälschungen. Die Skepsis und Zweifel des Erzählers spiegeln den bürokratischen Prozess der Bewertung von Flüchtlingsanträgen wider, die oft auf den Erinnerungen und Erfahrungen von Einzelpersonen beruhen und einer subjektiven Interpretation unterliegen. Die Geschichte wirft Fragen nach der Komplexität der Wahrheit, der Zuverlässigkeit mündlicher Zeugnisse und dem moralischen Gewicht von Entscheidungen über das Leben von Menschen in den Kontexten von Migration und Asyl auf. Die Arbeit mit der Kurzgeschichte regt die Lernenden dazu an, über komplexe Themen wie Wahrheit, Gerechtigkeit und Migration nachzudenken. Sie trägt dazu bei, den Schülerinnen und Schülern zu helfen, die Welt um sie herum besser zu verstehen.

Neel Mukherjee: *The Soldier's Tale* – The challenges of migration

Rita Reinheimer-Wolf

Facts	1
Notes on the material	3
Topic 1: Introduction: What do we want from the world	5
Topic 2: <i>The Soldier's Tale</i> – What is it all about	16
Topic 3: Storytelling elements	27
Topic 4: Refugees and cross-cultural encounters	31
Exam	39

© RAABE 2024

Competences and skills:

The unit contains texts and tasks that can be classified as level B2/C1 (*Europäischer Referenzrahmen*). Engagement with materials not only practises students' **reading abilities** but also develops their skills in explaining and **analysing** texts, especially when delving into both non-fictional and fictional extracts. Collaborative activities such as **group discussions** and **brief presentations** foster the development of **speaking and presentation** skills. Additionally, activities like video-based question answering sessions offer valuable exercises for training **listening and viewing skills**. Furthermore, **creative writing tasks** serve a dual purpose, targeting both **writing proficiency** and **vocabulary expansion** among students.

Overview:

List of abbreviations:

A Analysis**D** Discussion/Debate**L** Language**P** Working with a cartoon**RC** Reading comprehension**VI** Working with a video**CT** Creative task**G** Group work**LVC** Listening/Viewing comprehension**PR** Presentation**T** Working with the text**W** Writing

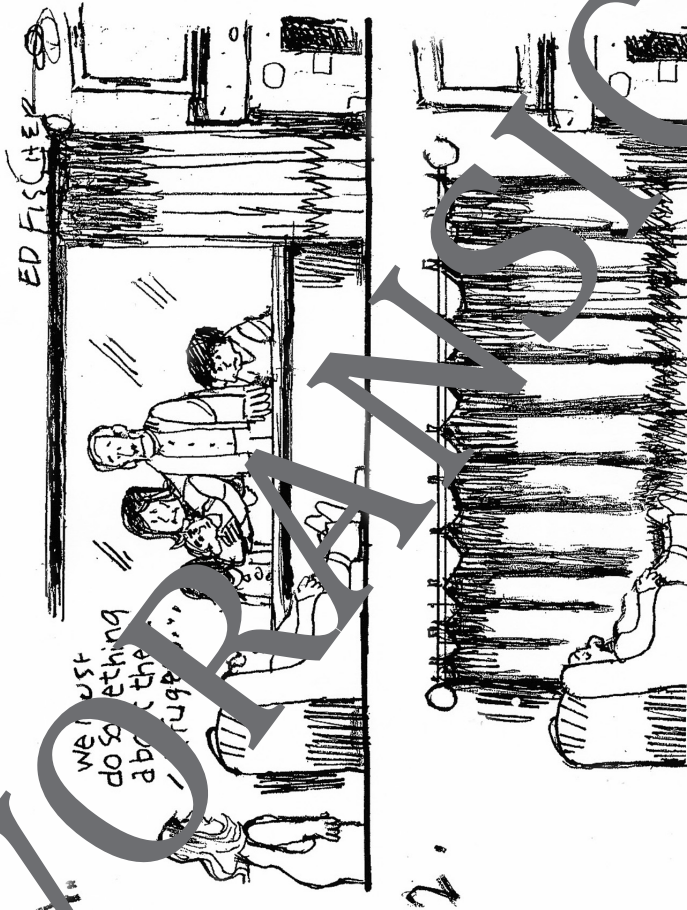
Topic	Material	Methods/Skills
1: Introduction: What do we want from the world?	M1–M5	A, G, L, P, PR
2: <i>The Soldier's Tale</i> – What is it all about?	M6–M8	A, D, G, RC, T, W
3: Storytelling elements	M9	CT, T, W
4: Refugees and cross-cultural encounters	M10–M13	A, D, LVC, PR, RC, T, VI, W
Exam	M 14	A, RC, W

M4 Worksheet – *We must do something about these refugees*

Working with a cartoon



Analyse the meaning and message of the cartoon in writing. If you need help, you can use the info sheet for analysing a cartoon.



© Cartoonist/Ed Fischer

Topic 2: *The Soldier's Tale* – What is it all about?

M6 Worksheet – *The Soldier's Tale*: Content

Reading comprehension



Read the short story *The Soldier's Tale*. Then match the correct sentence part based on the story.



1. At the age of seventeen or eighteen, Salim is forcibly	a) takes Salim to the desert to look after sheep.
2. After having successfully	b) promises Salim a decent working life in the paradise across the waters that is Europe.
3. A Libyan man	c) Salim manages to hide under a truck on the Eurostar and come to Dover.
4. Another trafficker	d) rules about moving refugee applicants to different parts of the country, Salim is relocated to Glasgow.
5. The arrival at Lampedusa presents	e) conscripted by the army in 1996.
6. One day in July,	f) fled from the underground prison, Salim enters Sudan illegally.
7. In accordance with new	g) the beginning of a kind of imprisonment.
8. Salim spent thirteen years	h) in different kinds of confinement or on the run escaping from them.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Worksheet – *The Soldier's Tale*: Atmosphere, ending and message(s) M8

Working with the text

1. Explain the title of the short story *The Soldier's Tale*.
2. Describe the atmosphere.
3. Describe the narrator's dilemma.
4. Explain the ending of the story and comment on it.
5. Read the extracts from *The Soldier's Tale* in the grid below. Analyse or explain them with your own words.
6. Formulate the message(s) of the short story and discuss your ideas with the entire class.



Extract 1

But you learn very quickly that you have to turn away from most of them. What you also learn is that gradually the human mind begins to insulate itself in the face of such evidence – or narrative, if you will – to the point that you start to protect yourself from what you read. You have to. Nice twist, isn't it, that they come to you seeking protection and you end up protecting yourself from them?

Neel Mukherjee: The Soldier's Tale. In: Crossing Borders. Stories of Migration and Cultural Identity. Ernst Klett Sprachen. Stuttgart, 2022. P. 76

Analysis/Explanation of the extract:

Mehr Materialien für Ihren Unterricht mit RAAbits Online

Unterricht abwechslungsreicher, aktueller sowie nach Lehrplan gestalten – und dabei Zeit sparen.
Fertig ausgearbeitet für über 20 verschiedene Fächer, von der Grundschule bis zum Abitur: Mit RAAbits Online stehen redaktionell geprüfte, hochwertige Materialien zur Verfügung, die sofort einsetz- und editierbar sind.

- ✓ Zugriff auf bis zu **400 Unterrichtseinheiten** pro Fach
- ✓ Didaktisch-methodisch und **fachlich geprüfte Unterrichtseinheiten**
- ✓ Materialien als **PDF oder Word** herunterladen und individuell anpassen
- ✓ Interaktive und multimediale Lerneinheiten
- ✓ Fortlaufend **neues Material** zu aktuellen Themen



Testen Sie RAAbits Online
14 Tage lang kostenlos!

www.raabits.de

