

R.16

Literature – Short stories, fables and fairy tales

Jhumpa Lahiri: “The Third and Final Continent” – Analysing a short story

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In dieser Einheit analysieren die Lernenden die Kurzgeschichte „The Third and Final Continent“ von Jhumpa Lahiri durch eine intensive Auseinandersetzung mit dem Plot einerseits und dem Protagonisten andererseits. Mithilfe abwechslungsreicher Methoden werden emotionale und inhaltliche Zugänge zu der Kurzgeschichte für junge Leserinnen und Leser geschaffen. Das Thema *arranged marriages*, das einen wesentlichen kulturellen Aspekt der Geschichte darstellt, wird mit einem Sachtext und einem Video ergänzend bearbeitet. Eine schriftliche Klausur, die auf einem Auszug aus dem Roman „(Un)arranged marriage“ von Bali Rai basiert, dient der Kernstandserhebung.

Overview

Topic 1: Travelling

M 1 Worksheet – Two pictures

Topic 2: Travelling and you

M 2 Worksheet – A questionnaire

Topic 3: The story – Getting into it

M 3 Worksheet – An extract from "The Third and Final Continent"

Topic 4: The story – Content, plot, and characters

M 4 Worksheet – The content of the short story

M 5 Worksheet – Analysing the short story

M 6 Worksheet – Beyond the short story

Topic 5: Arranged marriages in India

M 7 Text and Worksheet – Arranged marriages in India

M 8 Text and Worksheet – Mediation: "Heirate oder du stirbst"

M 9 Worksheet – A video on arranged marriages

Topic 3: The story – Getting into it

M 3 Worksheet – An extract from “The Third and Final Continent”



I left India in 1964 with a certificate in commerce and the equivalent, at those days, of ten dollars to my name. For three weeks I sailed on the S.S. Bonin, an Italian cargo vessel, in a cabin next to the ship's engine, across the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean, and finally to England. I lived in London, in Finsbury Park, in a house occupied entirely by penniless Bengali bachelors like myself, at least a dozen and sometimes more, all struggling to educate and establish ourselves abroad.

From: Anton, Daniela and Dowie, Sabrina (Ed.): Crossing Borders. Stories of Migration and Cultural Identity. Ernst Klett Sprachen. Stuttgart 2023. P. 87.

Working with the text

1. Read the extract from the short story “The Third and Final Continent”.
2. On your own, speculate about the plot of the story.
3. Form groups of three. One person starts by adding a single sentence to continue the extract. The next person follows with another single sentence, and then the third person adds his or her sentence. Continue this pattern, taking turns one sentence at a time, until you have created a complete story – your unique, collective story.
4. Write your own version of the story.

While writing, consider the following questions:

- Stick to the narrative perspective (first person narrator).
- Use the Past Tense.
- Think of a possible main plot (and possibly also a subplot).
- Make sure the action develops.
- Think of other characters apart from the narrator.
- Make the characters interact and not just deliver monologues.
- In the dialogues, the characters might use spoken or informal English.
- The narrative passages, however, are written in formal English.
- Also think of a possible change of places in your story.
- Find a title for your story.

Worksheet – Analysing the short story

M 5

1. Explain the title.
2. Analyse the atmosphere.
3. Analyse the ending.
4. Explain the message of the short story.
5. Focus on the narrator. How would you characterise him? Tick the adjectives in the box that apply to him and give reasons for your choice.

courageous	timid	egoistic	happy-go-lucky
traditional	arrogant	authentic	warm-hearted
exceptional	ambitious	intelligent	good-natured
religious	optimistic	principled	hard-working
ignorant	reliable		

6. Analyse the narrative perspective in the story and its impact on the reader.
7. Describe Mrs. Croft's role in the story.

Worksheet – Beyond the short story

M 6

Decide which of the aspects you would like to work on: A. Creating, B. Connecting, or C. Evaluating. Use the respective card to find your specific tasks. You must work on one task as a minimum. If you are a fast finisher, you can work on further tasks and aspects. Choose:

- a) Record your answers on your smartphone. Send them to a partner for peer feedback before you send it to your teacher.
- b) Write your answers in coherent texts and post them on the application TaskCards.

A. Creating

1. What would you change in the short story to make it more appealing?
2. Do you like the ending of the short story? If yes, why? If not, why not? Which alternative ending would you choose?

B. Connecting

1. Do you see any connections between the short story and your own life? Which ones?
2. If you were to give one of the two protagonists (Brian, Constance) some advice, what would your advice be?

C. Evaluating

1. Would you recommend the short story? Explain your decision.
2. If you imagine the short story to be turned into a short film? Which parts of the short story would you highlight, and which parts would you leave out?

Worksheet – Mediation: "Heirate oder du stirbst"



1. Imagine that you have a friend in an English-speaking country. He/she has asked you about arranged marriages in Germany. You have come across this German text and sum up the main facts from the article in English.
If you need help for the mediation, you can consult the hints.



How to mediate a text – 10 tips

1. Do not translate the text word for word.
 2. Find keywords and the most relevant information.
 3. Leave out minor details and irrelevant information.
 4. Try to understand the gist of the material and use your own words without changing the facts.
 5. If you come across expressions that cannot be translated due to cultural differences (e.g., *Feierabend*, *Heimatfest* etc.), give examples to illustrate the situation. In this case, you might also add information of the cultural background.
 6. Do not interpret or assess the text. Just mediate it.
 7. Express challenging passages in simpler terms.
 8. Remember that you can make use of paraphrases.
 9. If you do not know a word, use a synonym.
 10. If you are unable to find the right word, use the opposite with 'not'.
2. After having finished your mediation, ask yourself these questions:
 - Has the purpose and the intention of the text been conveyed?
 - Has the addressee been considered?
 - Has the assignment been considered?
 - Have you used your own words?
 - Are the style and choice of words appropriate for the intention of the text?
 - Have you used varying constructions of sentences?
 - Is the text grammatically correct?

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