

R.17

Literature – Short stories, fables and fairy tales

## Sefi Atta: “Green” – Analysing a short story

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Die Unterrichtseinheit zu Sefi Attas Kurzgeschichte „Green“ bietet Schülerinnen und Schülern die Möglichkeit, sich intensiv mit den Themen Immigration, Integration und kulturelle Identität auseinanderzusetzen. Im Mittelpunkt steht die Geschichte einer nigerianischen Familie, die in den USA ein neues Leben beginnt. Die Lernenden festigen Kompetenzen in den Bereichen Literaturanalyse, interkulturelles Verstehen, sprachliche Kommunikation und kritisches Denken.

## Overview

### Lesson 1

**Topic:** Introduction – Becoming an American

**M 1** "If you're born here ..." – American citizenship / Describing and analysing a cartoon; thinking of positive and negative effects of *jus soli*; activating prior knowledge about the American citizenship; drawing a cartoon

### Lesson 2–7

**Topic:** The short story "Green" – Immigration and cross-cultural encounters

**M 2** Sefi Atta: "Green" – A short story / Reading a short story

**M 3** Understanding the short story "Green" at the immigration office / Reflecting about the symbolism of the colour green; summing up the situation of the family, the narrative perspective and the immigration process; creating and playing out an interview with the immigrants at the office about their experiences

**M 4** Mardi Gras in New Orleans – Finding out about the tradition / Gaining basic information on Mardi Gras in New Orleans by watching a video; discussing the meaning of the traditions; analysing the description of New Orleans in the short story; creating a timeline on the multicultural history of New Orleans with the help of a text

**M 5** First- and second-generation immigrants – Analysing the short story / Revising difficult "immigration terms"; analysing the parents' personalities and the parent-daughter relationship; writing an e-mail

**M 6** The role of soccer in the USA – Analysing the short story / Describing pictures; completing a multiple-choice test; analysing the role of soccer in the short story and the attitudes of the protagonist and her parents; writing a comment

**Needed:**

- Devices to play the video and open the online text in M 4



### Lesson 8

**Topic:** Test

**M 7** Test – Sefi Atta and her short story "Green" / Filling in gaps

**Working on the topic**

2. Discuss in small groups the positive and negative effects of citizenship by birth in the USA (the so-called *jus soli*). Make notes and present your arguments in class.



Positive effects	Negative effects

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3. Find out about other ways to become an American citizen. Explain which considerations might have led to the introduction of these regulations.
4. Look at the cartoon again and imagine what will happen to the protagonists in the future. Then draw a cartoon with the title "10 years later". Exhibit your works in class.





### Working with language

3. Reread ll. 109–131 of the story "Green", which describe the family's visit to Mardi Gras celebrations in New Orleans. Collect expressions from the text that relate to Carnival, find out about their origin and explain their meaning.

Expressions	Origin	Meaning
Mardi Gras (l. 109)	French	last day of Carnival Tuesday before Ash Wednesday

4. Explain what the description of the visit tells us about the city of New Orleans.

### Creating a timeline

5. Read the text about New Orleans: <https://raabe.click/neworleans>. Create a historical timeline, which shows the arrival of new groups of immigrants and their influence on the culture of the city. If you like, illustrate the timeline with suitable pictures.



4. Read the statements about the relationship between the girl and her parents. Are they true or false? Correct the false ones.



Statements	True	False
The relationship between the girl and her parents is quite close.		
The girl often quarrels with her parents.		
The parents want their daughter to keep up African traditions.		
The girl often knows in advance what her parents will do or say.		
The girl is sometimes embarrassed about her parents' behaviour.		
The parents want to protect their child.		
The parents are sad because their daughter is a "typical" American.		

5. Analyse how the girl as a second-generation immigrant feels about her African origin and American citizenship.

### Writing an e-mail

6. You are a young second-generation immigrant in Germany and have read the story "Green". Write an e-mail to the author describing how you feel about your situation.



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