

English in Context 6. Student's Book (Auflage 2017)

Topic 1: The Web of Communication

- S. 20f: *Black Swan Green* (David Mitchell), novel
the novel tells the story of Jason "Jace" Taylor, a 13 year-old living in the village of Black Swan Green outside of Worcester, England; over the course of the novel, Jason will deal with bullies, his parents' divorce (and his new stepmother), his sister leaving for university, his first kiss, and, most of all, his stutter.
- S. 25f: *How to eat a poem* (Eve Meriam), poem

Topic 2: Violence and Crime

- S. 38ff: *The Hunger Games* (Suzanne Collins), novel
young adult novel (turned into a film) dealing with a future where the USA no longer exists, 16-year-old heroine Katniss Everdeen and fights to the death on live TV in the Games
- S. 50f: *The astonishing adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl* (Barry Lyga), novel
Fanboy, a 15-year-old boy, is an outsider at school and obsessed with comics; it's a realistic, contemporary story of bullying and a teen's private escape (inner world/ fantasy scenario)

Topic 3: Making a Difference

- S. 69: *If I can stop one heart from breaking* (Emily Dickinson), poem
- S. 70-74: *Bread on the Water* (David Lubar), short story
Andy and Tommy, two teenage boys in a typical US small town, are kicked out of the Sunday morning church service and learn the real meaning of "actions speak louder than words". The short story is about stereotypes/prejudices and overcoming them and helping.

Topic 5: Migrants and Minorities

- S. 123: *Black Hoodie* (Roddie Doyle), short story
three students in modern-day Dublin start a school project on stereotypes; doing an experiment on stealing they set out to prove people's prejudices true, with disastrous consequences.

Topic 6: A Good Read

- Unit 16: *The curious incident of the dog in the night-time* (Mark Haddon), novel
Christopher, a 15-year-old boy, with autism/Asperger's syndrome; a novel about difference, about being an outsider, about seeing the world in a surprising and revealing way.
- Unit 17: *The absolutely true diary of a part-time Indian* (Sherman Alexie), novel
Native American, growing up in a reservation, going to a white school, father and son/alcohol, girl-friend/bulimia
- Unit 18: *Looking for Alaska* (John Green), novel
Miles leaves his home in Florida to attend Culver Creek Preparatory High School (boarding school) in Alabama for his junior year; he is attracted to his fellow student Alaska, a beautiful but emotionally unstable girl

English in Context 7/8. Student's Book (Auflage 2019)

Topic 1: Being Young – Good Times, Bad Times

- S. 18f: *Where I come from* (Richard Nelson), play
A group of American high-school kids are on a trip to London.
- S. 20-24: *Extra Virgin* (Joan Bauer), short story
An 18-year-old girl's commitment to abstinence is tested when the guy of her dreams walks into her life.
- S. 26: *Slam* (Nick Hornby), novel
The book's main theme is teenage pregnancy and it is written from the perspective of a teenager, Sam.

Topic 2: The Media

- S. 45 (+ CD-Extra): *The Truman Show* (Peter Weir), film script
The film chronicles the life of a man who is initially unaware that he is living in a constructed reality television show, broadcast around the clock to billions of people around the globe. Truman becomes suspicious of his perceived reality and embarks on a quest to discover the truth about his life.

Topic 3: The UK – Tradition and Change

- S. 63: *We are Britain* (Benjamin Zephaniah), poem(s)
2 poems from renowned performance poet Benjamin Zephaniah, each one about a child in his or her home environment. It shows that despite their differences, children have many similar preoccupations whatever their cultural background.
- S. 72: *This Scepter'd Isle* (Shakespeare), play/Richard II
part of a long list of well-known phrases in praise of England, which appears in Shakespeare's play Richard II, in a speech by the character John of Gaunt

Topic 4: The World of Work and Business

- S. 84f: *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* (Alexander McCall Smith), novel
A woman opens her own detective agency in Botswana.
- Viewing Skills – DVD: *Japanese story* (Sue Brooks), film/Airport scene
On a trip into the Australian desert, Sandy, a geologist, and Hiromitsu, a Japanese businessman, struggle with their cultural misunderstandings.

Topic 5: The USA – Dreams and Struggles

- S. 108f: *Slave Girl* (Patricia McKissack), novel
Clotee is a slave in a Virginia plantation. To her, freedom is the greatest word in the world.
- S. 116ff: *Little Brother* (Cory Doctorow), novel
The novel is about four teenagers in San Francisco who, in the aftermath of a terrorist attack on the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge and BART system, defend themselves against the Department of Homeland Security's attacks on the Bill of Rights.
- Viewing Skills – DVD: *'Civil Rights Movement: March on Washington'*, documentary
The March on Washington took place in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963. Attended by some 250,000 people, it was the largest demonstration ever seen in the nation's capital, and one of the first to have extensive television coverage.

Topic 6: Living Spaces

- S. 141 (+ CD-Extra): *Into the Wild* (Jon Krakauer/Sean Penn), novel/film adaption
The novel/film is the true story of Chris McCandless, a young Emory graduate who is found dead in the Alaskan wilderness in September 1992, when he is 24.
- S. 142f: *I'm a Stranger Here Myself* (Bill Bryson), novel
After living in Britain for two decades, Bill Bryson moved back to the United States with his English wife and four children. They were greeted by a new and improved America that boasts microwave pancakes, 24-hour dental-floss hotlines etc.
- S. 144f: *Nuit of the Living Dead* (David Sedaris), short story
The account of one very interesting night Sedaris had experienced while by himself in their country home in Normandy. The story starts out in the early morning hours with him explaining his plan in the event of a zombie outbreak and how he would wait out the attack out. While in his house alone he hears noises up in the attic ...
- S. 147f: *Little Princes* (Conor Grennan), novel
About to turn thirty, Conor Grennan planned a year-long trip around the world. He started his trip with a three-month stint volunteering in the Little Princes Orphanage in war-torn Nepal. What was supposed to be just a three-month experience changed Conor's life, and the lives of countless others.
- S. 151f: *Angela's Ashes* (Frank McCourt), novel
The memoir consists of various anecdotes and stories of Frank McCourt's impoverished childhood and early adulthood in Brooklyn, New York, and in Limerick, Ireland. It also includes McCourt's struggles with poverty and his father's alcoholism.

Topic 7: Science, Technology and the Environment

- S. 166: *My Sister's Keeper* (Jodi Picoult), novel
The novel tells the story of 13-year-old Anna, who sues her parents for medical emancipation when she is expected to donate a kidney to her sister Kate, who is dying from leukemia.

Topic 8: Global Perspectives

- S. 185f: *Where Am I Wearing?* (Kelsey Timmerman)
From garment factories in Cambodia to banana plantations in Costa Rica, Kelsey Timmerman is dedicated to addressing global issues through storytelling.
- Viewing Skills – DVD: *'Outsourced'*, (John Jeffcoat), film/extracts:
'eight heads for the price of one; it's a culture thing; it's impossible'.
Todd Anderson has to travel to India when his department is outsourced.

Topic 10: National Identity and Diversity

- S. 255f: *My Place* (Sally Morgan), autobiographical novel
It's about Morgan's quest for knowledge of her family's past and the fact that she has grown up under false pretences. A milestone in Aboriginal literature.
- S. 257f: *My Two Lives* (Jhumpa Lahiri), essay
Not long after Jhumpa Lahiri was born, her parents decided to leave India and travel to America. Lahiri was raised in Rhode Island during the 1970s. At home Lahiri's parents lived by their culture's traditions. As a first generation family, the transition between cultures proves to be difficult. Life outside of home was complicated for Lahiri, she struggled trying to find her identity.

- S. 259: *Envoi* (James McAuley), poem
One of McAuley's early poems, *Envoi*, conveys an unsentimental sense of place and provides a hint of his lingering need for some kind of spiritual consolation.
- S. 259: *These Yet To Be United States* (Maya Angelou), poem
Angelou sees America as having great power over the rest of the world. The anger of the poem makes her seem disconnected and distant from her own country.
- S. 260f: *'Tis: A Memoir* (Frank McCourt), novel
The novel begins where McCourt ended *Angela's Ashes*.

Check Your Progress – Reading:

- S. 271: *A Field Guide to the British* (Sarah Lyall)
Sarah Lyall moved to London in the mid-1990s and soon became known for amusing and sharp dispatches on her adopted country.
- S. 273f: *Rats! another Glass Castle excerpt* (Jeannette Walls), novel/memoir
Part tribute to her nonconformist parents, part survivor's tale. Walls and her siblings never see themselves as pitiful victims, and their ability to plan an escape to a better life, to remove themselves from a literally collapsing home, make this a compelling read.

Topic X-TRA: Shakespeare (cf. CD-Extra):

- S. 7: *Romeo and Juliet, in: Twitterature* (Alexander Aciman, Emmet Rensin)
Two students' efforts to reduce the great works of literature to digestible 'tweets'.
- S. 8: *Romeo and Juliet get Twitter treatment* (Maev Kennedy)
Royal Shakespeare Company retelling Bard's *Romeo and Juliet* with a cast of six over five weeks and 4,000 tweets.