

Hilde und Günter 2

Teacher's notes

These short stories are written at the second year level. When is it appropriate to begin reading each story? Students should be able to read the story with the help of the teacher when they recognize at least 75% of the words (ideally much more). Students could read the story on their own when they recognize at least 90% of the words. Conduct a simple assessment. Pick a random page from the first story. Ask students to count all of the words on that page that they don't recognize. At the same time you count up all of the words on the page. Simple division will result in a percentage. Students are reading for comprehension. Sometimes it helps students if you read a difficult passage out loud. No definitions are given of any of the words. Students should be able to understand many new words from context. Otherwise you could simply tell your students what new words mean. I do not recommend stopping the flow of context in order to look up a word in a dictionary.

Der Rock

Nearly 2500 words. Theme: Shopping for clothes. Present tense with usage of modals.

The following cultural items may be discussed:

- Two different German music groups are mentioned: Rammstein and Die Prinzen.
- C&A, H&M, Hallhuber and other stores are mentioned. Other stores are invented for the story.
- Online stores such as Quelle and Otto are mentioned.
- A few sites in downtown Munich are mentioned, such as the Glockenspiel.
- Teens with Handys are portrayed. Answering a Handy seems to be a bit different than answering the phone at home for teens.
- The story is perhaps rated PG with references to women's underclothes, Günter in a couple of compromising positions and Günter looking at Jutta's skirt. These references would be considered very mild to German teenagers.

Das Vorzeichen

Nearly 3000 words. Theme: Shopping for groceries. Present and future tense is used.

The following cultural items may be discussed:

- Auto license plates that show where a car is registered in Germany is discussed.

- A German family has taken on an American exchange student.
- The Viktualienmarkt in Munich is mentioned.
- Grüß Gott is a common Bavarian greeting.
- The story takes characters to the farmer's market, bakery, supermarket and butcher shop.
- Different types of bread are mentioned.
- Different types of sausage are mentioned.
- This story has two slight references to Biblical events.
- This story has salesmen speaking to Hilde and Günter with the Sie form. Hilde and Günter would probably more likely be referred to as "du" by the salesmen due to their ages.
- Euros and Cents are mentioned.
- The U-3 subway and the Olympic Stadium are mentioned.

Der Glückskeks

Nearly 2700 words. Theme: Restaurant. Conversational Past tense used throughout.

The following cultural items may be discussed:

- A specific type of soccer club from Schwabing is mentioned.
- The board game "Cluedo" is described.
- Although the restaurant is Chinese, basic German restaurant protocol is followed: Ordering drinks, main course, paying for the meal, etc.

Die Entführung

2800 words. Theme: Transportation and places in the city. Conversational past tense used throughout.

The following cultural items may be discussed:

- Many places in Munich including, Marienplatz, Englisch Garten, Deutsches Museum.
- Many forms of public transportation are discussed including the subway, bus, bicycle, taxi.
- Several street names in Munich are mentioned. It could be interesting to show these places on a map.
- The Isar river is mentioned.
- The popular Smart Car is mentioned.
- The Deutsche Museum has the first Benz car as well as many other wonderful displays.
- Germans may say "aua, aua, aua" when they are suddenly hurt.
- Hilde and Günter get a surprise party of sorts, but Germans don't tend to do this. Instead of yelling "surprise!" the characters say "Hallooo!"