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Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

Auszug aus:

"A Meeting in the Dark" (1974) von Ngugi wa Thiong'o

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Thema:	<i>A Meeting in the Dark</i> – Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o
TMD: 27751	
Kurzvorstellung des Materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kenyan author Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o (*1938) is one of the most important and most influential voices in modern African literature. His first novel was published in 1964, since then he has produced various other novels, short stories, plays as well as literary and political essays. He lived in Kenya, Uganda, the USA and England. Ngũgĩ is an outspoken critic of post-colonial Kenyan politics. • The short story <i>A Meeting in the Dark</i> was published in 1975 in the book <i>Secret Lives</i>, a collection of short stories Ngũgĩ had written in the previous 12 years.
Übersicht über die Teile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Context • Plot • Narrative Point of View • Characters • Study Questions • Model Answers
Information zum Dokument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ca. 6 Seiten, Größe ca. 79,5 KByte
SCHOOL-SCOUT – schnelle Hilfe per E-Mail	<p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOL-SCOUT ♦ Der persönliche Schulservice Internet: http://www.School-Scout.de E-Mail: info@School-Scout.de</p>

The conversation stays rather superficial, though, with Stanley reminding John that they are to go to the shops tomorrow to buy some things John needs for his journey to university. John will leave the village in one week’s time. Ironically, during the conversation Stanley advises John against going into the village so that he will not get into trouble.

After John has left the hut Susana, his mother, and Stanley have a fight, because Susana feels that Stanley is too strict with the boy. They themselves had “sinned” before they got married, which led to Stanley’s conversion to Calvinism. Stanley now wishes to save their son from the same mistakes he made. Whereas John’s fear that Stanley might sense the trouble he is in during their conversation was unnecessary, Susana does have an intuition that her son is troubled.

While his parents are talking, John walks down into the village. He stops on the way to look at the village, contemplating the view, when one of the women of the village passes by him. They have a short conversation during which John is very polite, much to the woman’s pleasure. During this conversation, the reader learns a lot about the high regard the villagers have for John.

When the woman has moved on, John stays for a while at this spot and speculates about the life the woman probably lives. Thinking about the life of simple villagers, he feels proud that they should hold him in such high esteem. These thoughts remind him of the trouble he is in, though, and he continues his way to the village. After staying for a short while in the little teashop, John returns home for the evening meal.

During dinner, his mother asks him whether he is worried about something, which he denies. After dinner, he walks into the village again. He goes straight to Wamuhu’s parents’ hut. She is not there, but comes in just when he decides to leave. The two walk out of the village together, where they have a discussion about Wamuhu’s pregnancy. John wants to know if Wamuhu has told anyone yet, which she negates. John blames Wamuhu for getting both of them into this trouble, but she deflects the blame by asking if he does not intend to marry her. He does not answer this question, instead asking her when she will tell someone. John is desperately trying to escape the situation, but Wamuhu tells him that she is already three months pregnant and that there is no way she can delay telling her mother any longer, unless he intends to marry her. Finally, John manages to put off the decision until the next day, when they will meet again.

When Wamuhu has left, John is seized by a fit of panic, before he is able to walk home. During the walk, he considers actually giving up his education and marrying her, thus defying all expectations, but in the end comes to the conclusion that he cannot do so because Wamuhu is circumcised. This is a native tradition which does not agree with John’s, and especially Stanley’s Christianity. In the end, this is the reason for John to decide that he cannot marry her.

The next day John and Stanley go to the shops. When they return home, Stanley asks John why he did not come for prayers the night before. John almost panics, but Stanley does not guess the truth, only telling John that he should not sleep so early.

In the evening, John and Wamuhu meet again. The only solution John can come up with is to offer Wamuhu money, which she refuses vehemently. Offering ever higher sums of money, John works himself into a frenzy, losing all sense of reality. Not aware of what he is doing, he strangles Wamuhu in the end.



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