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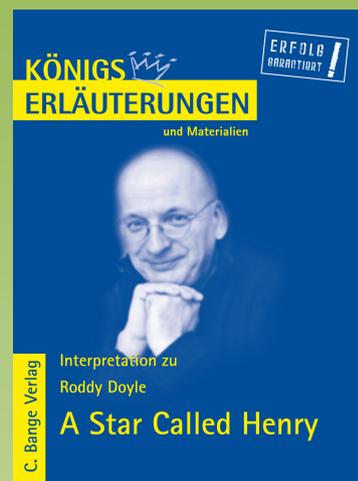
Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

Auszug aus:

*Interpretation zu Doyle, Roddy - A Star Called Henry
(Englisch)*

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

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Preface

Set in Ireland in the first quarter of the twentieth century, Roddy Doyle's novel *A Star Called Henry* is the story not only of the violent birth of the Irish Republic, but also of the coming-of-age of a young man who is driven by an irrepressible will to assert himself, but who nevertheless – as he himself only later realises – allows himself to be manipulated by others and to become a pawn in somebody else's game. The novel paints an at times lurid picture of a society in which unscrupulousness leads to success and where those who are underprivileged from the start, as a rule, end up the losers as well. Under such circumstances Henry fails because he is not ambitious for power; all he wants is to be admired and to be loved. This makes him become dependent on others. Although his good looks and his boyish boisterous ambition to prove himself, coupled with his hunger for a bit of tender loving care, make him irresistible to women, the men just use him. At the end he is left with nothing but blood on his hands.

Doyle's novel is packed with so many different events and characters that it is almost impossible to fully understand on first reading. For this reason, this guide gives a detailed account of the historical background to the plot (see in particular chapters 1.2, 2.1 and 2.5), the content of the novel and the narrative composition (see chapters 2.2 and 2.3) in addition to a detailed analysis of the principle characters (2.4). The guide also looks at the style and use of language (2.6) and offers new angles of interpretation (2.7). Chapter 1.1 and 1.3 examine the extent to which *A Star Called Henry* is characteristic of Doyle's literary works as a whole.

Roddy Doyle is one of the most successful Irish authors of our times, and many of his books have been turned into films. In his works, he unites an almost tangible realism with the carefree and adventurous enjoyment of the fantastic. Thus, his books are always gripping and mostly provocative. They are well worth reading.

1. Roddy Doyle: Life and works

1.1 Biography

Roddy Doyle has lived in Dublin all his life. In 2002, he published a book about his parents, Rory and Ita. With this one exception, he has done his utmost to keep himself out of the public eye, which explains the limited information that is available about him.

Year	Event	Age
1958–1993	Roddy Doyle is born in Dublin on 8 May and grows up in Kilbarrack, in the north of the city. His father works as a typesetter and instructor in the printing industry. His mother, Ita, has worked as a hospital secretary. From an early age, his father encourages him to read. After attending St. Fintan's Christian Brothers School in Sutton, Roddy Doyle goes on to study at University College Dublin. He becomes a teacher of English and Geography and is offered a position at Greendale Community School in Kilbarrack. It is during this time that he also establishes himself as a writer. In 1993, he gives up teaching to become a full-time writer. He is married and has two sons, Rory and Jack.	0–35
1987	Roddy Doyle publishes his first novel, <i>The Commitments</i> . His stage play, <i>Brown Bread</i> , premieres.	29
1989	A second stage play, <i>War</i> , premieres.	31
1990	The second part of the <i>Barrytown Trilogy</i> , <i>The Snapper</i> , is published.	32

Year	Event	Age
1991	<i>The Barrytown Trilogy's</i> third and final novel, <i>The Van</i> , is published. The book is shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Alan Parker turns <i>The Commitments</i> into a film; Roddy writes the script with Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais. The film is awarded several prizes by the British Academy of Film and TV Arts.	33
1992	The Barrytown Trilogy is published as a complete work.	34
1993	Roddy Doyle publishes his fourth novel, <i>Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha</i> , and is awarded the Booker Prize for it. Stephen Frears turns <i>The Snapper</i> into a film based on Roddy Doyle's script.	35
1994	The BBC produces and broadcasts a four-part TV series entitled <i>Family</i> , with a script written by Roddy Doyle.	36
1995	<i>Family</i> is broadcast in Ireland and triggers protests from politicians, priests and the teacher's union who accuse him of betraying Ireland by portraying the country too negatively, undermining the idea of marriage and suggesting that teachers hit their pupils.	37
1996	The fifth novel, <i>The Woman Who Walked into Doors</i> , is published. The idea for this book is based on the last episode of <i>Family</i> and is narrated from the mother's point of view.	38
1997	The third novel in the <i>Barrytown Trilogy</i> , <i>The Van</i> , is also turned into a film. Stephen Frears directs it and Roddy Doyle provides the script.	39

1.1 Biography

Year	Event	Age
1999	<p><i>A Star called Henry</i> is published and is intended to be the first part of a series of novels, <i>The Last Roundup</i>.</p> <p>Roddy Doyle publishes his first children's book, <i>Not Just for Christmas</i>, and works as co-author on the series, <i>Finbar's Hotel</i>.</p>	41
2000	<p>A second book for children is published: <i>The Giggler Treatment. When Brendan Met Trudy</i> – a comedy about the relationship between a self-conscious teacher and a resolute female thief – is performed on stage.</p>	42
2001	<p>Another children's book is published: <i>Rover Saves Christmas</i>, in addition to a novel which Roddy Doyle has co-written with other authors, among them Frank McCourt (<i>Yeats is Dead! A Novel by Fifteen Irish Writers</i>). The stage play <i>Guess Who's Coming to the Dinner</i> premieres at the Dublin Theatre Festival.</p>	43
2002	<p>Roddy Doyle publishes <i>Rory and Ita</i>.</p>	44
2003	<p><i>The Woman Who Walked into Doors</i> premieres on stage in Roddy Doyle's own adaptation.</p>	45
2004	<p>The second volume of <i>The Last Roundup</i>, <i>Oh, Play That Thing</i>, is published. Doyle's fourth children's book, <i>The Meanwhile Adventures</i>, is published.</p> <p>Roddy Doyle causes a stir when, in the run-up to the lavish centenary celebrations of Bloomsday (the day in 1904 on which the plot of <i>Ulysses</i> is set) planned in Dublin, he openly talks about his dislike of James Joyce, an author he considers to be overrated.</p>	46



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