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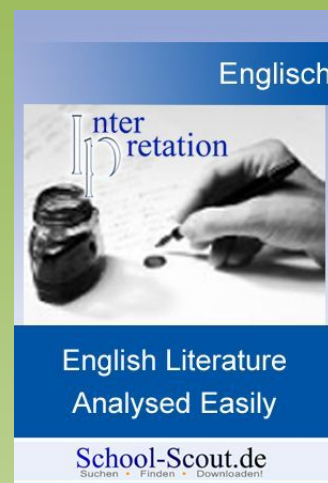
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Auszug aus:

"Flippin' In" von Anne Chislett

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Thema:	<i>Flippin' In</i> – Anne Chislett
TMD:	
Kurzvorstellung des Materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Chislett (*1942) is a Canadian author and screenwriter. After graduating from the University of British Columbia, she worked as a teacher until 1980. Since then, Chislett has been a full-time author. • Her best-known works are <i>The Tomorrow Box</i> (1980) and <i>Quiet in the Land</i> (1996). The play <i>Flippin' In</i>, which was first produced in 1996, won the Chalmer's Canadian Play for Young Audiences Award.
Übersicht über die Teile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot overview • The structure of the play • Characters • Language and style • Importance of the play
Information zum Dokument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ca. 6 Seiten, Größe ca. 78 KByte
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Susan asks Lynn what the conversation with Elaine was about, but the conversation is interrupted when Maria burns her hand. Elaine decides to send her to the hospital and fills in behind the counter herself. She even agrees to pay Maria for the day, even though she has to leave.

After the rush of customers is over, everyone is quite impressed with the way Elaine handled the situation. It emerges that Elaine found out about the union. Susan defends herself by claiming that almost every one of the staff has voted in favour of the union. Elaine tells Joe to step forward. He reads out a letter which says that he has been tricked into joining the union, but withdraws his vote. The scene ends with a sign that says 29:29, meaning that Susan does not have the majority she needs to start the union anymore.

The following very short scene shows how Susan finds out that her union apparently has been stopped. She is devastated, but determined not to give up yet.

In the tenth scene, Lynn visits Susan at home. She is dejected and has even missed a test at school. Once again, they talk about the union. Lynn tries to comfort Susan by telling her that she cannot legally be fired for trying to start a union. Susan is still determined to try and win the public vote that is to take place the next day.

The next scene consists of a basketball game between Elaine and Susan. While playing, the two of them make their arguments in turn, and each scored basket represents one vote. In the end, Susan loses. Elaine asks her whether she intends to keep working for her, and when Susan confirms this, she is downgraded to cleaning the floors and toilets permanently.

The twelfth and last scene starts with Joe telling Susan to clean the bathrooms. Lynn is angry about this, because she feels that Joe might as well have done so himself, but he merely answers that it is Susan's job, not his. Joe proudly tells Lynn that he is Employee of the Month.

Elaine enters, telling everyone that they are expected to join a communal car washing on the upcoming Sunday in order to restore Kwik-Bitey's reputation after the failed union. Then she tells Joe that she changed his schedule, because, like she claimed earlier in the play, no one can work more than three hours at a time. Joe is deeply upset about this. Lynn offers to look after his daughter during his morning shifts.

Susan then reveals that she is looking for a permanent job, because she will not get the Kwik-Bitey scholarship after the business with the union. The play ends with Lynn, Susan and Joe talking about how Elaine treats everyone worse than before the union. Lynn actually asks Susan if she would be willing to help if they tried to unionise again.

The structure of the play

Flippin' In consists of only one act. It is divided into twelve scenes of varying lengths. The play is rather simply structured in order to counteract the different quite untraditional stage devices that Chislett uses.

The acts and scenes follow each other chronologically, but there is more than one place of action. The main place of action is the Kwik-Bitey fast food restaurant, but the first scene takes place in the school gym, and the sixth and tenth scene take place at Susan's home. The stage is simply designed, though, in order to facilitate the changes of the setting. Only a few accessories are exchanged in order to change the school gym to Kwik-Bitey's, for example the billboard is turned around so it does not show the score of the basketball game anymore, but instead shows a hamburger and a smiling worker.¹

¹ Chislett, Anne. *Flippin' In*. Berlin: Cornelsen, 2000. p. 8

Characters

There are only few characters in the play. The main protagonist is Susan, who has the idea of starting a union. Lynn is another teenage girl, the two know each other from school, but have not exactly been friends. Joe is a young man in his early twenties who works at Kwik-Bitey's like Maria, who could be aged anything from twenty-five to forty.² The fifth character is Elaine, like Maria of undefined age but she is also the manager of the Kwik-Bitey franchise.

Susan is a rather self-confident girl. Her mother has just been fired by Lynn's father; therefore she does not react in a friendly way when Lynn approaches her in the opening scene. She changes her mind about Lynn, though, when she learns that in fact Lynn is looking for a job. Before this, she had thought that Lynn was a snob because she comes from a wealthy family. Susan is a compassionate girl who hates the bad way in which the employees at Kwik-Bitey's are treated. In order to improve the working conditions at Kwik-Bitey's by starting a union, Susan is even willing to risk her scholarship, without which she will not be able to attend college. In the end of the play she quits her job at Kwik-Bitey's and forfeits the scholarship. She tells the other employees that she will be looking for a permanent job instead.

At first, Lynn is not in favour of the idea to start a union but after she has seen Maria at the Food Bank she is shocked that the woman does not even earn enough to afford buying food for her children. This is way Lynn changes her mind and starts to help Susan founding the union. When Elaine asks her about the changed behaviour of all the staff, Lynn feels bad about not telling her the whole truth, though. She is the one who always tries to justify Elaine's behaviour and claims that Elaine should be able to "pick her own team"³, and should therefore be able to fire people if there is a good reason to do so. Lynn gained this opinion after talking to her father. She is very fond of her father and his opinion matters to her a lot, so she is afraid that he might find out about the attempt to starting a union.⁴ Lynn is willing to help Susan, because she feels sorry for Maria and Joe, who are dependent on their jobs at Kwik-Bitey's and who are treated so badly. When Elaine campaigns against the union, Lynn abstains from the vote and tries to remain neutral. In the end of the play, though, she witnesses how Elaine's behaviour towards her employees becomes even worse than before the attempt to start the union, and therefore she is willing try again.

Elaine is running a very strict regime in her franchise, even demanding her staff to ask her for permission whenever they need to go to the bathroom. When she shortens the shifts to a maximum of three hours, Susan is fed up. Even though she hopes to get a Kwik-Bitey scholarship to go to college, which she will not be able to afford otherwise, she is determined to do something about the miserable working conditions.

Joe and Maria are full-time employees at Kwik-Bitey's. Joe has a small daughter of kindergarten age, but the child's mother has left them both. He takes care of the child with the help of his mother, and he is dependent on working certain hours at Kwik-Bitey's, so he will always be home when his mother is not able to look after the child.

Maria has four children, as the audience learns when Lynn tells Susan that she saw her at the Food Bank.⁵ She has a Hispanic background and her English is not very good. She knows a few phrases which she can say almost without an accent, though, as for example:

² Chislett, p. 4

³ Chislett, p. 60

⁴ Chislett, p. 40

⁵ Chislett, p. 40

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