



SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

Auszug aus:

Murder in the Dark von Margaret Atwood - Interpretation

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

School-Scout.de



 	
Thema:	Margaret Atwood – Murder in the Dark (Interpretation)
TMD: 35100	
Kurzvorstellung des Materials:	<p>Margaret Atwood is an important and famous Canadian writer of the 20th century, she is a writer of novels, short fiction, poems, and essays. She is one of the foremost writers in the world.</p> <p>One of her most popular works is the novel “The Blind Assassin” (2000), which was awarded with the Booker Prize in the same year and made her famous all over the world; this material deals with one of her fictitious short stories: “Murder in the Dark” (1983) published within a collection of short fiction.</p>
Übersicht über die Teile	<p>Interpretation, additional remarks (Ohne Primärtext!)</p>
Information zum Dokument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ca. 4 Seiten, Größe ca. 60 KB
SCHOOL-SCOUT – schnelle Hilfe per E-Mail	<p>SCHOOL-SCOUT ♦ Der persönliche Schulservice Internet: http://www.School-Scout.de E-Mail: info@School-Scout.de</p>

Interpretation

With this material, “Murder in the Dark” by Margaret Atwood will be analyzed and interpreted. Atwood published this famous fictitious short story in the year of 1983.

In the beginning of an interpretation, it is important to start with an introductory sentence, which should contain the following general information: name of the author, title of the text and the literary genre.

As an outline is to say that the short story is about a game. As the title says, the game is called “Murder in the Dark”. The first person narrator introduces this game to the reader. There has to be a murderer, a victim and a detective. The lights have to be switched off, the murderer has to ‘kill’ someone, and then the detective has to interview every single ‘survivor’ to find out who is the murderer.

First, the narrator talks about personal experiences with the game but in the end, the topic changes to a more general point of view: the work of an author and the impact on the reader. Therefore the reader is directly addressed.

However, this text is not what one would call a typical short story with a depicting plot, for example. In fact, it seems to be a playful essay on the interaction between author, reader, and text, which appears to be mirrored in the thoughts of the author herself: Margaret Atwood. Worauf bezieht sich denn der zweite teil des Satzes? Auf den Essay oder auf die Interaktion?

It is useful to explain in a few sentences what the short story is about. Afterwards, you should analyze the short story step by step in a more detailed way.

The short story is divided into six paragraphs, with three main parts divided according to the meaning of the text. Die Erklärung zum Aufbau ist ganz schön knapp geraten.

The first part (ll. 3, p 12 – 2, p 13) functions as a kind of introductory description of the game and the experiences of the narrator: “This game I’ve played only twice. The first time I was in Grade Five...” (ll. 3f). Apparently, the first person narrator is female, because she talks about her early love with a boy (cf. ll. 10-13). This seems to be the first hint to the reader that there is a connection between the first person narrator and the author Margaret Atwood, as well. Atwood seems to tell from her own experiences with the game when ending with the advice “[t]he thing about this game is that you have to know when to stop” (ll. 1f, p 13).

Apart from that, there is no real interaction between different characters as there are no characters. The whole short story is rather a kind of introduction and instruction to the game. So, there is no ‘real’ story with a plot. Although the narrator mentions a few names in the beginning, there seems to be no connection between them and the main intention of the story. Therefore Bill, Louise or the poet (ll. 11, 23) seem to be mentioned just marginally, thus without importance.

Furthermore, a special setting, where the story takes place, does not exist.

This first paragraph is an introduction to the ‘plot’ of the story. The reader gets to know all important background information, like the important characters welche sollen das denn sein? Oben steht doch, dass es eigentlich keine gibt?, the narrator, the setting of the plot and the atmosphere between the different people. All this is very important in order to understand the text.



SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

Auszug aus:

Murder in the Dark von Margaret Atwood - Interpretation

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

School-Scout.de

