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Auszug aus:

Klausur mit Erwartungshorizont: Paul Auster - Moon Palace

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Roman: *Moon Palace* (Paul Auster)

Name: _____

Aufgabe 1: Der Schüler / die Schülerin ...		max. Pkte.	err. Pkte
1	erkennt die Gliederung des Romans nach Lebensabschnitten verschiedener Hauptpersonen	5	
2	verweist auf Rückblenden und die sprunghafte Erzählstruktur Austers	7	
3	erkennt den temporären Wechsel in der Erzählperspektive in Kapitel 5 und 6	8	
Summe inhaltliche Leistung Aufgabe 1:		20	

Aufgabe 2: Der Schüler / die Schülerin ...		max. Pkte.	err. Pkte
1	erkennt und belegt die Identitätssuche als zentrales Motiv, treibende Kraft des Handelns	8	
2	erklärt und belegt unterschiedliche Bedeutungen des Mondes im Buch	10	
3	benennt zentrale Charaktermerkmale von Marco Stanley Fogg im Zusammenhang mit Identitätssuche und Mondsymbolik	12	
Summe inhaltliche Leistung Aufgabe 2:		30	

Aufgabe 3: Der Schüler / die Schülerin ...		max. Pkte.	err. Pkte
1	erkennt das Genre <i>postmodernism</i> und gibt eine kurze Definition	5	
2	nennt Elemente und Themen von <i>postmodernism</i> in „Moon Palace“	8	
3	schafft eine Verbindung der postmodernen Themen des Romans zur heutigen Zeit	7	
Summe inhaltliche Leistung Aufgabe 3:		20	

Darstellungsleistung Die Schülerin/der Schüler ...		max. Pkte	err. Pkte
strukturiert den Text kohärent, schlüssig, stringent und gedanklich klar.		7	
formuliert unter Beachtung der fachsprachlichen und fachmethodischen Anforderungen.		7	
belegt Aussagen durch angemessenes und korrektes Zitieren.		3	
drückt sich allgemeinsprachlich präzise, stilistisch sicher und begrifflich differenziert aus.		4	
formuliert lexikalisch und syntaktisch sicher, variabel und komplex.		4	
schreibt sprachlich richtig.		5	
Summe Darstellungsleistung		30	

Gesamtleistung: _____ von 100 Punkten **Note:** _____

One of the ideas of postmodernism is that through all the fragmentation of the story, readers can pick up different elements and form their own individual opinion on things. As a result, to me, the story and its themes, even though published over 20 years ago, still hold importance. With all the different influences of progress, technology and globalization, some people may believe that we live in a rather modernist world that is dominated by unity. Yet, the individual still is important today. Finding one's place in society is as difficult as ever and the struggle to do so, too. Also, in this context, one's personal quest for identity has become more and more important. Life might be more diverse and maybe faster than it was in 1969 but that does not mean that it is easier now. Moreover, there is always room for social criticism. There is no perfect societal system today. Many minority groups such as poor people, immigrants, homosexuals etc., to name but a few, are continuously excluded from society in many countries in the world. To sum up, one could say that the themes in "Moon Palace" are up for interpretation and everybody has to see for him/herself what to make of it. In this case they are still of general importance.

Aufgabe 3: What elements make *Moon Palace* a work of postmodernism? Do you think the work and its themes still hold importance today?

Die dritte Aufgabe deckt den Bereich „evaluation: comment, re-creation of text“ (Problemlösen und Werten) ab. Die SuS müssen das Genre „postmodernism“ erkennen und seine Elemente im Roman kurz beschreiben (social criticism, intertextuality, oder nonlinear narrative). Des Weiteren müssen Sie anhand von Beispielen im Text postmoderne Themen aufzeigen und deren Relevanz für die heutige Zeit aus ihrer persönlichen Sicht erörtern. Einerseits wird dadurch eine Evaluation eingefordert, andererseits eine persönliche Stellungnahme und somit auch kreative Textproduktion. Die Antwort auf die letzte Frage ist prinzipiell offen. Sie sollte bestenfalls aber auf eine fortwährende Allgemeingültigkeit von Themen wie Identitätssuche und der Kritik an sozialen Verhältnissen in der heutigen Gesellschaft abzielen.

Musterlösung zu Aufgabe 3:

Postmodernism, or postmodern literature, is a general term applied to literature produced after WWII. Its point of departure, though, is generally regarded as the late 20th to early 21st century. It defines itself as a countermovement to modernist literature and ideals, such as unity, global truth and authority. Postmodern themes, in contrast, are dealing with individuality, the negation of reality or identity, for instance. Being published in 1989, “Moon Palace” perfectly fits into the genre of postmodernist literature. Auster is known for including postmodernist elements and dealing with postmodernist themes in lots of his works. Some such elements and themes can also be found in “Moon Palace”.

For instance, there is the novel’s nonlinear structure and narrative, as can be seen in the non-chronological order of the events. This is a typical characteristic of postmodernist literature. Also, there is the topic of identity. The loss and quest for identity are proof of the characters’ - Fogg, Barber, and Effing - struggle with society while at the same time they show a great deal of non-conformity. In this respect, the novel also stresses personal value of the individual, emphasizing the characters’ personal emotions and portraying their internal fragmentation.

On a different note, Auster often includes intertextuality in his work. He mentions a series of painters, Blakelock for instance with his moon paintings. Moreover, from the very beginning of the story, Fogg is confronted with the inheritance of his Uncle Victor’s books. They also play a crucial part in the story, as can be seen in the case of the story of Bergerac’s travels to the moon. Finally, there are numerous hints at historical events that happen alongside the story (the students’ protests, the war, the moon landing...). All these elements of intertextuality offer the reader a new perspective on the story and a better understanding of the different fragments of information.

A third element of postmodernism is the subtle social criticism that becomes apparent especially in Barber’s story “Kepler’s Blood”. While at first glance it appears like a simply fictitious story about his childhood, the story actually tells about the exploitations of Native Americans. Also Fogg’s time in Central Park and the scene where he is examined by the army bears criticism and hints at failures in the societal and governmental system. The sum of these elements makes “Moon Palace” a typical postmodernist novel.

Aufgabe 2: What role do the theme of identity and the symbol of the moon play in the novel? How do they relate to the character of Marco Stanley Fogg?

Diese Aufgabe widmet sich dem Bereich „analysis“ (Anwenden von Kenntnissen). Die SuS sollen in dieser Aufgabe zwei zentrale Themen erklären: 1. Das Thema der Identität im Roman (so z.B. ihr Fehlen als eine Last, die Suche danach als treibende Kraft hinter dem Handeln) und 2. Die Mondsymblik (Distanz, Traumwelt, Andersartigkeit, Reise, Neuland). Zudem sollen in einem dritten Schritt diese Erkenntnisse mit der Hauptfigur in Einklang gebracht werden (Jugend ohne Eltern, Suche nach Vater, Sinnsuche, Träumerei).

Musterlösung zu Aufgabe 2:

One of the central themes of the novel is “identity”. It appears throughout the novel as an ever-present influence on the characters, particularly on the protagonist Marco Stanley Fogg. The loss of identity and the constant search, or quest, for it are the main powers that drive the characters’ actions and determine their decisions. Fogg undergoes a series of transformations that indicate his lack and at the same time longing for identity.

Both Solomon Barber and M.S. Fogg grew up without a father and suffer from their lack of identity. Both of them only learn about their respective father when it is too late. Just like Effing did in the cave, Fogg also spends time as a hermit in separation from society. After his stay in Central Park, which shows his inability to fit into society, he becomes a new person trying to take on a different identity just like Effing who changed his name. Yet, Fogg’s longing for identity continues. His need for it is so strong that he even risks and destroys his relationship with Kitty Wu over it. While Kitty Wu does not feel ready for a child, Fogg sees in it a family he never had. He wants to have a fixed role, an identity as a father. In the end, after Kitty has left him for good and Effing and Barber are dead, Fogg has lost all bonds to people around him and to his past again. It remains unclear whether in the end he finds his identity in the new life or whether he just starts all over again.

The symbol of the moon is another major theme in the novel. It is a reoccurring symbol that appears at different moments and in different places of the story. There is, for example, the sign of the Chinese restaurant next to Fogg’s apartment when he goes to university, the story about Cyrano de Bergerac’s novel on the travel to the moon, the saying from the fortune cookie, etc.... Although the moon as a symbol can have different meanings, it is clear that there is a connection to Stanley Fogg’s character. The reader is presented with the symbol every time Fogg finds himself in a new period of his life. Just like the moon cycles, Fogg’s life seems to turn in circles and restart over and over again. The saying in the fortune cookie is a good example as it reads “the moon is the future” and the story ends with one cycle ending while the full moon indicates a new one, a new life. At the same time, the moon also stands for a different world, for a longing to travel to other places in seemingly unreachable distance. Like the novel of Bergerac, which Fogg recites on the day he meets Kitty, Fogg also longs for different worlds, travelling throughout the country. While mankind sets foot on the moon the same year as the story takes place, it remains unclear again whether the full moon in the end indicates that he has found what he was looking for or whether a new cycle is about to start.

Musterlösung

Aufgabe 1: What is specific about the novel's structure and narrative perspective?

Diese Aufgabe soll den Anforderungsbereich „comprehension“ (Wiedergabe von Kenntnissen) abdecken. Zunächst soll ein Überblick über die formelle Struktur des Romans gegeben werden. Es sollte dabei auf die verschiedenen (Lebens-)Abschnitte innerhalb des Romans eingegangen werden, sowie die unkonventionelle Erzählstruktur durch Auster, welche durch stetige und sprunghafte Rückblicke sowie Vorwegnahme von Informationen geprägt ist. Des Weiteren sollten die drei Hauptpersonen - Marco Stanley Fogg, Thomas Effing und Solomon Barber - erwähnt werden sowie, konkreter, der kurzzeitige Wechsel in der Erzählperspektive durch das stilistische Mittel der „story within a story“ in Kapitel 5 (Effings „orbital“) und Kapitel 6 (Solomons „Kepler's Blood“).

Musterlösung zu Aufgabe 1:

Paul Auster's novel "Moon Palace" is divided into seven chapters. The story is told from the perspective of Marco Stanley Fogg who serves as a protagonist and narrator. However, the story does not follow a clear line of events or a chronological storyline but starts with a retrospective 20 years after the events took place. Furthermore, the narrator changes throughout the story.

At first, the story revolves around the early life of M.S. Fogg told by himself as a first-person narrator, an "I-as-protagonist" who actively takes part in the fictitious world. In chapter 5 then, the focus lies on a second main character, Mr. Thomas Effing, who tells a story from his life, and the narrative perspective temporarily shifts to him as the story is told from his perspective as an "experiencing I". Other stories within the main story appear again later in Chapter 6, when the third main character, Solomon Barber, is introduced. The narrator also tells stories from Barber's life, jumping back and forth in time with each episode and functioning as an omniscient authorial narrator now, for example when reciting a dialogue between Barber and his Aunt Clara. Afterwards, the storyline continues with Fogg as a first-person narrator again.

Each chapter and change of perspective designates a different phase in the life of one of the characters. Additionally, the stories within the story also present the reader with different periods of time. This nonlinear and non-chronological aspect of the novel's structure and Auster's narrative are further supported by the constant foreshadowing devices by the narrator himself, who often anticipates and informs the reader of events that have yet to happen. One such event is the meeting with Zimmer in 1982, which hints at the protagonist's life after the story that is presented in the novel.

The constant changes in time, the fragmented story and the changing perspective can have a confusing effect on the reader but at the same time it implies the connectedness that exists between the three main characters of grandfather, son and grandson while also allowing the reader to take up the story at any given moment and to piece together again the different information.

Klausur zu Paul Austers „Moon Palace“

1. What is specific about the novel's structure and narrative perspective?
2. What role do the theme of identity and the symbol of the moon play in the novel? How do they relate to the character Marco Stanley Fogg?
3. What elements make *Moon Palace* a work of postmodernism? Do you think that the work and its themes still hold importance today?

Bewertungsschlüssel:

Notenanteil

Inhaltlich	Aufgabe 1	20 %
	Aufgabe 2	30 %
	Aufgabe 3	20 %
Formal	Darstellungsleistung	30 %





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