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Santa's Coming

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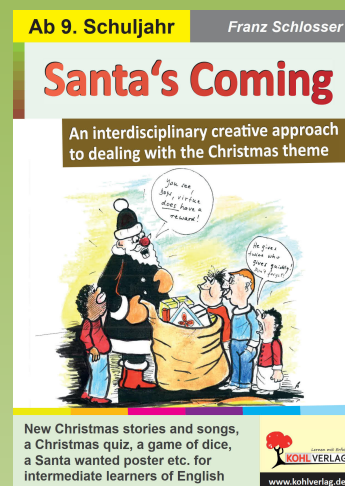


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Vorwort

Alle Jahre wieder Fröhliche Weihnacht überall – auch im Englisch-Klassenzimmer.

“Santa’s Coming” enthält u.a. „neue“ Weihnachtslieder, eine Reihe „Christmas Gift Songs“, zwei zu Weihnachtsgeschichten zweckentfremdete Struwwelpeter-Geschichten sowie einen Max-und-Moritz-Streich, ein Weihnachtsquiz, einen Steckbrief von Nikolaus. Das Ganze ist annotiert, illustriert und mit Lösungsvorschlägen versehen.

Intention:

Einstimmung der Schüler auf Weihnachten, Einführung und Internalisierung von Weihnachtsvokabular, Vertrautmachung der Schüler mit (überwiegend) britischen Weihnachtstraditionen, Förderung ihrer Kreativität, Nutzung der Vorteile des (gemeinsamen) Singens: erleichtertes Lernen durch die mnemonische Hilfe von Reim und Rhythmus, sozial-integrativer Aspekt, Spaß und Entspannung.

Zielgruppe: Schüler ab 9. Klasse

Franz Schlosser

Über den Autoren

Franz Schlosser (*1946 in Waldsee) studierte Anglistik und Romanistik in Heidelberg. Von 1971 bis zum Eintritt in den Ruhestand 2010 unterrichtete er an Gymnasien in Idar-Oberstein und Schifferstadt die Fächer Englisch, Französisch, Italienisch und Latein.

Er publizierte in diversen sprachpädagogischen Fachzeitschriften.

Autor u.a. von *Principulus. Der kleine Prinz auf Lateinisch / Die fromme Helene auf Lateinisch (beide Reclam) / Petrus Grammaticus. Struwwelpeter Goes Grammar (C.C. Buchner) / À vos marques, prêts, chantez!* etc.

Er ist zudem Autor verschiedener Mundartveröffentlichungen.



Preface / Didactic-methodological reflections

***Why not, when kids are hard to tame,
before the hols, just play a game –
or burst into some melody
and work a bit creatively?***

***Let's work creatively, let's play
and warble Xmas songs! – Okay?***

Teachers (of modern languages) know that it is rather a vain endeavour to motivate their pupils, especially the low-ability ones, when the Christmas (or summer) holidays are just around the corner and the working morale has reached an all-time low. After a long period of swotting up on lots of (boring) subjects the kids are inattentive and listless because they are – and quite understandably so – finished and burned out.

So why not counteract this phenomenon and bring some fun and new drive into the classroom – without, however, losing touch with the didactic aims of the curriculum, of course. Getting the pupils into the Christmas spirit and learning by singing and playing and doing (interdisciplinary) creative work is the order of the day.

The following teaching unit is tailored to the needs of fifth-year students and higher levels of English.

Why the Christmas topic?

Xmas, it is true, is more and more tending to be an anachronism, i.e. a phenomenon incongruous with our modern materialistic time. It has lost its original meaning, that of the nativity of Jesus Christ, and become pure commerce instead. It seems to mean more to kids than just another opportunity of getting (heaps of) presents, though. There is a remnant of mystique inherent in Christmas which fascinates them. In adults, it conjures up nostalgic childhood memories.

Why do (interdisciplinary) creative work?

Pupils doing creative work have fun and do not actually have the feeling that they are “working”. Yet they **do** work – unconsciously – and very intensively so.

It is well-known that creative work, as long as there is sufficient tutorial guidance, can be quite fruitful. Moreover, in addition to giving the students an opportunity to rehearse and consolidate (Christmas) vocabulary, it is of paramount psychological importance:

It gives the pupils a sense of personal achievement since they can identify with the final outcome of their creativity, with what they have “produced” – a feeling of bliss and contentment of which the assembly line worker, who is but a cog in the wheel of the production process, is totally deprived.

Why sing in class?

In an age of constant exposure to canned music, where active singing is felt to be “out” and, consequently, more and more looked down upon and disapproved of, singing in class, at least once in a while, ought to be a must all the more. After all, it has been scientifically proved that active singing is relaxing and socially integrating. In addition to that, singing in a foreign language is a variant of the communicative educational aim of “speaking” and an unconscious memorizing of foreign lexis and linguistic structures furthered by rhythm and rhyme functioning as mnemonic aids.

Put in a nutshell, the contents of the original Struwwelpeter story is this: three cheeky little whites tease a pickaninny just for the fun of it. Santa Claus, who comes to the scene threatens to sink them into his big barrel of black ink if they don't leave the little negro alone. The louts, however, cast the holy man's words to the wind and must bear the consequences of their misbehaviour.

First Louie boy came skipping by,
Sol smiting down like mad, the feller
was sauntering along the street.
at little Moorie strolling near
waving his banderole on high.
A little negro black and sweet
filled to the brim with slimy tar.
a luscious pretzel in his hand.
At last, young Willie joined the group (troop),
'cause he was raven-black. Oh dear!
neat-combed and with a hula-hoop.

The three began to scoff and sneer
put up his walking-stick umbrella.
Forth barged Saint Claus with his big jar
He said: "My lads, at once you cease
to tease that Moor! Leave him in peace!
It's not his fault, no, it is not,
The lecture, though, was for the birds.
The louts derided Santa's words.
They even jeered and pointed more
if he's not white like you, God wot!"
at the poor negro than before.

He snapped them up without delay,
first Louie, then the pretzel jack,
deep down into the oozy slop.
Then Caspar came and took his stand,
The holy man flew in a rage,
behind the Moor, poor tarry boys.
Old Santa dumped the whole bad lot
as you can see here on this page.
The prospects of the boys grew grey:

to skip – to move lightly and quickly

feller – fellow

to saunter – to walk in a slow, relaxed manner

Moorie – little moor

luscious – mouth-watering, tasty

to scoff – to mock; to sneer – to mock

to barge – to burst in

lout – rowdy; to deride – to make fun of

to jeer – to mock

God wot – God knows

to snap up – to seize quickly

oozy – slimy, muddy; slop – soft mud

to take one's stand (Stellung beziehen)

tarry – covered with tar (geteert)

prospects – perspective

then Caspar, who was fighting back,
and mercilessly let them drop
Down to the bottom of the pot
much blacker than the negro yet.

But for their evil mocking quack,
You see them here as black as jet,
they wouldn't have been coloured black
as they keep trodding with their toys.

quack (Gequake)

Assignments

- 1) Restore the correct sequence of the lines in that muddle tale above.
- 2) Pep up the text with further drawings.

➤ The story of the three good boys

“The Story of the Inky Boys” is ideal for being transformed into a Christmas story: Christmas being the feast of love and charity, the naughty brats for once metamorphose into good Samaritans. Instead of annoying the little negro boy they give him an umbrella thus providing shade from the sun for him and, moreover, bring him something to eat and warm clothes to wear, etc. Therefore they are richly rewarded by Father Christmas who showers them with presents.

Assignment

- 3) With the expressions figuring below fill in the blanks in the story that follows.

out of sheer boredom and frustration
sticking their tongues out at them and cocking a snook at them
they lifted liquor and cigarettes
X-mas Eve
a thick layer of snow
the terror of the area, all three of them
not bully them any more
a giant star with a long tail
from people's orchards
with Molotov ones
Today a little boy's been born unto us
and doing charitable acts instead
picture book boys
in his sleigh packed with presents
not into computer systems that were not theirs
the big rollbar-equipped gift sleigh
the one with no antlers
dying of starvation and shivering with cold

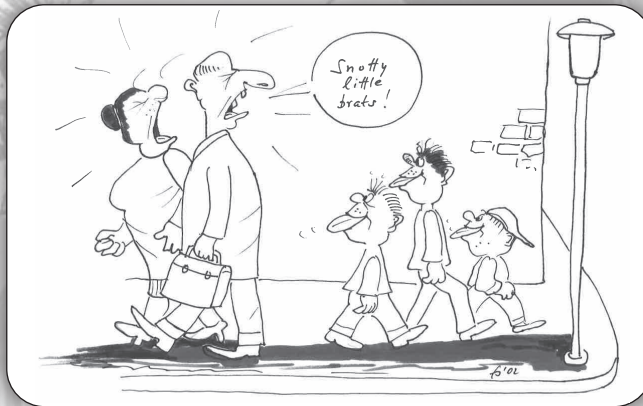
ordered a big pizza chef
the pug-nosed puma
 turned into Pauluses and good Samaritans
 heard the jingling of X-mas bells
 a one-horse open one like in the song
the long-nosed llama
 a larger-than-life red nose
the hook-nosed hamster
 remembering the story of Saint Martin
 a X-mas rap song
 Yule presents

Vocabulary aids

to cock a snoot at – to put the thumb on the nose to show you have no respect for someone; to bully – to seek to harm, to intimidate; orchard – a garden where fruit trees are grown; charitable – *wohltätig*; roll bar – *Überrollbügel*; antlers – the horns on the head of an adult deer; pug nose – a short upturned nose (*Stupsnase*); Yule – Christmas

Their names were Willie, Casper and Louie. Everybody in Thingummy Town knew them, nobody liked them. They were snotty little brats, God wot, real snotty little brats, (1).

You'll certainly wonder what on earth they did that they were in everybody's bad books? Well, they teased old folks, (2); they stole plums, apples and pears (3); they picked pockets;



(4) in supermarkets; they bullied helpless little girls; they hacked into other people's computer systems; they even – you'll just gape – made and threw (!) cocktails (and Molotov ones at that) at poor innocent contemporaries, (5)! Yes, they felt bored and frustrated, like so many kids in this age of mega-bytes and hip hop that is ours.

One day, however, it was the 24th December 2001, (6), the three rascals were to undergo a radical transformation.

The town lay covered under (7), it was bitterly cold – minus 25 degrees Centigrade – as they sauntered, as usual, about Park Lane with the intention of doing some mischief to whatever poor person or animal they'd come across, when all of a sudden they beheld, high up in the sky, (8), which was endowed with the gift of speech and which accosted them thus:

“Halleluja, kiddies, harken to my words and rejoice: (9). His name is Jesus and he'll bring peace and happiness to this miserable planet we live on. I feel you should follow his example by quitting your bad habits for once (10). What do you say?”

Santa's Coming

An interdisciplinary creative approach to dealing with the Christmas theme

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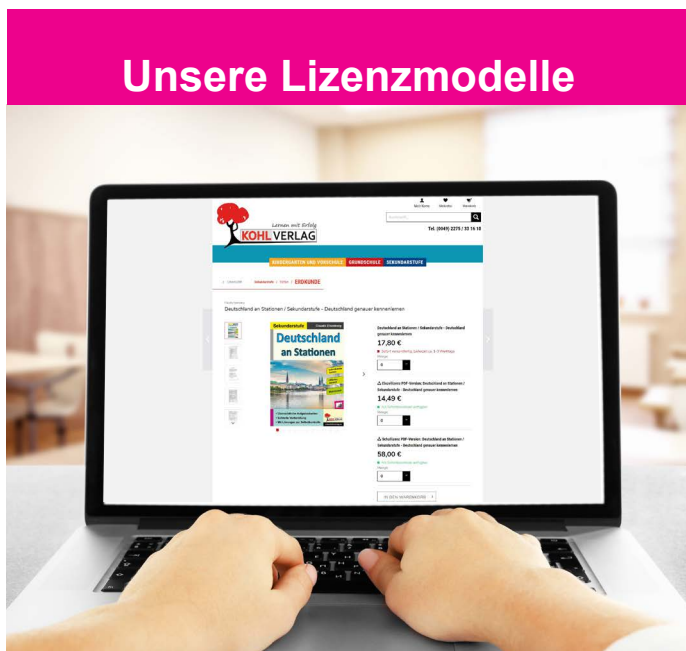
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PRESENTS, PRESENTS, PRESENTS

Assignment 1: Santa Claus, please come and bring
me a snack from **Burger King (1)**
and some games for my **PC. (2)**
I live Park Lane, **number 3. (3)**

Thank you, Nick, for the PC
and the **Eminem CD (4)**
and the lovely anorak
that you carried on your **back (5)**
down the **chimney stack (6)** to me.
Love and kisses – **Emily, Dorothy. (7)**

I've been so well-behaved this year.
So, please, Saint Nick, harness your **deer (8)**,
and with your chock-full present **sleigh (9)**
come straight to me. Don't lose your way!
My dearest wish has always **been (10)**,
you know, a yellow submarine
and a Nintendo game **console (11)**
and a CD with rock-'n-roll.

Saint Nick, I'm looking forward **to (12)**
the Xmas day or night when you
climb down the stack with all your kit.
I hope you won't get stuck **in it! (13)**

Assignment 2: individuelle Lösungen

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