

SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE



Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

Auszug aus:

Camille Acker: Mambo Sauce

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

[School-Scout.de](https://www.school-scout.de)



Camille Acker: *Mambo Sauce* – Exploring the challenges of modern Black identity

Rita Reinheimer Wolf



In dieser Einheit analysieren die Lernenden die Short Story „Mambo Sauce“ von Camille Acker in ihren inhaltlichen sowie formalen Facetten. Dies beinhaltet eine intensive Auseinandersetzung mit den beiden Protagonisten Constance und Brian, einerseits und den Merkmalen der Erzählperspektive andererseits. Mithilfe vielfältiger Methoden werden inhaltliche und emotionale Zugänge zu den Kurzgeschichte für jungst. Lesenden und Leser geschaffen. Hierbei erarbeiten die Lernenden auch, wie sie ihre Lernerfahrungen auf ihre konkrete Lebenswelt und ihren jeweiligen Kontext übertragen können.

RAABE
LEHRERBILDUNG

Camille Acker: *Mambo Sauce* – Exploring the challenges of modern Black identity

Rita Reinheimer-Wolf



© JPM/Image Source

In dieser Einheit analysieren die Lernenden die Short Story „*Mambo Sauce*“ von Camille Acker in ihren inhaltlichen sowie formalen Facetten. Dies beinhaltet eine intensive Auseinandersetzung mit den beiden Protagonisten Constance und Brian einerseits und den Merkmalen der Erzählperspektive andererseits. Mithilfe vielfältiger Methoden werden inhaltliche und emotionale Zugänge zu der Kurzgeschichte für junge Leserinnen und Leser geschaffen. Hierbei erarbeiten die Lernenden auch, wie sie ihre Leseerfahrungen auf ihre konkrete Lebenswelt und ihren jeweiligen Kontext übertragen können.

Camille Acker: *Mambo Sauce* – Exploring the challenges of modern Black identity

Rita Reinheimer-Wolf

Facts	1
Notes on the material	2
Topic 1: What is this story about? – An approach to the topic	4
Topic 2: The different challenges of Brian and Constance's relationship in <i>Mambo Sauce</i>	13
Topic 3: Who is Constance?	22
Topic 4: Who tells the story? – An analysis of the viewpoint and its effect on the reader	27
Topic 5: The short story, <i>Mambo Sauce</i> and me	33

© RAABE 2023

Competences and skills:

By working with the materials and the short story *Mambo Sauce*, students enhance their **reading skills**. Furthermore, they practise their competences in explaining and **analysing texts** when working closely with extracts from the material. This way, they also improve their **writing skills**. Students' **speaking competences** are strengthened by giving short speeches on specific topics, sharing and exchanging ideas in small groups with fellow students and by carrying out a role play.

Overview:

List of abbreviations:

A Analysis**CH** Characterisation**D** Discussion/debate**IN** Interview**PM** Placemat**RC** Reading comprehension**T** Working with a text**C** Comment**CT** Creative task**G** Group work**MC** Multiple choice**PR** Presentation**RP** Role play**W** Writing

Topic	Material	Methods/Skills
1: What is this story about? – An approach to the topic	M1–M3	A, D, G, RC, T
2: The different challenges of Brian and Constance's relationship in <i>Mambo Sauce</i>	M4–M5	A, RC, PR, RP
3: Who is Constance?	M6–M8	CH, D, G, T
4: Who tells the story? – An analysis of the viewpoint and its effect on the reader	M9–M11	A, D, G, RC, W, T
5: The short story, <i>Mambo Sauce</i> and me	M12	A, CT, G, PR

Camille Acker: *Mambo Sauce* – Exploring the challenges of modern Black identity

Facts

Camille Acker is the author of the short story collection *Training School for Negro Girls*, published by The Feminist Press in October 2018. She obtained a B.A. in English from Howard University and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from New Mexico State University. Acker has taught at various institutions, including New Mexico State University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago Writers Studio, Blue Stoop in Philadelphia and Tin House. She was raised in Washington, D.C. and currently resides in Philadelphia.

The short story *Mambo Sauce* is featured in Part Two of *Training School for Negro Girls* (pp. 129–159). It explores the complex interracial relationship between Brian and Constance. The story is set in Washington, D.C. Constance, a Black woman who previously worked as a part-time teacher in New York, decides to move in with Brian, her white boyfriend, who has secured a new job as a charter-school lobbyist in Washington. Constance plans to dedicate more time to her artistic pursuits. They live in a predominantly Black neighbourhood in the Northeast district of D.C. One day, after having worked on her sculptures for a few hours, she goes out to make herself familiar with the area. While taking a walk around the area, Constance stumbles upon a chicken joint called Winging It! where she encounters mambo sauce for the first time.

On their first weekend together, Brian and Constance receive an invitation to a welcome dinner hosted by Brian's former college friends. The gathering takes place in a wealthier neighbourhood, and Brian's friends hold well-paid jobs. During their visit, Constance confronts one of Brian's female friends, Alissa, after she makes snobby remarks about the area where Brian and Constance live. Constance feels uncomfortable when the hosts make derogatory comments about mambo sauce, referring to it as "ghetto sauce". While driving back home, Brian and Constance engage in an argument regarding Constance's response towards Brian's friends.

Constance revisits the chicken joint and enjoys being there chatting with the Black staff there. During her visits, she discovers that Winging It! is facing closure due to

gentrification. Without consulting the owners, she takes it upon herself to organise a petition to save the establishment. However, Constance acts without knowing whether the owners would approve of her actions. In fact, Ann, one of the Black owners, becomes angry with Constance for her activism. Towards the end of the short story, when Brian accompanies Constance to the chicken joint for the first time, he becomes frustrated upon learning that she has not informed the owners about her white boyfriend.

Mambo Sauce delves into the complexities of an interracial relationship, highlighting the challenges faced by a Black woman as she grapples with the realities within the relationship. The story explores various themes, including the quest for belonging, identity, the impact of gentrification, as well as the presence of racism and discrimination.

Notes on the material

This unit offers extensive opportunities to delve into the various aspects of the short story *Mambo Sauce* by Camille Acker. The material is organised into five topics. While it is advisable for students to approach these topics collectively, it is still feasible to focus on specific topics if there are time constraints or a limited number of lessons available.

Topic 1 serves as an introduction to *Mambo Sauce* by engaging students with a series of short excerpts. Initially, students are tasked with establishing a coherent chronological order for the provided excerpts. Following this, they are required to summarise the main content of the short story using a grid. Students are encouraged to raise personal questions related to vocabulary, characters and the storyline, which are then discussed. Subsequently, students reflect on their understanding of the concept of identity. In the final step, students analyse additional extracts from *Mambo Sauce*, exploring the dimensions of identity within them.

Topic 2 revolves around the complex relationship between Brian and Constance, the two main characters. The topic begins with a task for students to reread the short story with a focus on Brian and Constance's relationship. Following this, students engage in a writing exercise by answering five questions. Next, students are presented with a brief list of adjectives that describe relationships and are asked to select the appropriate ones. They are also required to provide reasons for their choices using key words. To further develop their speaking skills, students are tasked with delivering a three-minute speech

on Brian and Constance's relationship. Lastly, students prepare and perform a role play at a marriage counselor's office using role cards. Language support is provided to assist students in this role play activity.

Topic 3 centers on the protagonist Constance. The topic begins with a pre-reading activity where students reflect on the factors that shape a person's character. Following this, students are prompted to reread the short story, focusing on Constance's identity. To assist in this analysis, students can utilise the provided grid. The topic concludes with a written literary characterisation of Constance. Students are provided with general guidelines for writing a characterisation. Lastly, students exchange their written characterisations and provide each other with detailed feedback.

Topic 4 focuses on the narrative perspective used in literature, with a specific focus on *Mambo Sauce*. The topic begins by presenting students with an info sheet on narration in literature. Next, students reflect on three general questions related to narration. They then fill in the blanks to reinforce and review terminology associated with narration. Finally, a creative writing exercise is introduced where students rewrite the beginning of the short story from Brian's point of view. Peer feedback is encouraged using the provided resource.

Topic 5 aims to establish a personal connection between the students and the short story *Mambo Sauce*. The topic begins with a walking activity where students assess the genre and characters using a multiple-choice sheet. Following this, students prepare a poster illustrating the type of conflict and struggle portrayed in *Mambo Sauce*. The topic concludes with an exercise that prompts students to share their personal reactions and appreciation of the short story. Three types of tasks (creating, connecting, evaluating) are provided, allowing students to choose based on their level of competence. Proficient learners may be given the opportunity to work on all tasks.

Edition of the short story used for this unit:

Acker, Camille: *Mambo Sauce* in: *Training school for Negro girls*, The Feminist Press, New York, 2018, pp. 129–158.

Topic 1: What is this story about? – An approach to the topic

M1 Excerpts from the short story



- | | |
|----|---|
| a) | And in DC, Constance could be different. She wouldn't be the part-time teacher and full-time dreamer she had been in New York. She could pursue art, call herself an artist. Brian insisted on it, that she take the time she needed to sculpt and find her voice. |
| b) | Inside the chicken joint, the air felt heavy with grease. The paint saturated with it. The floor waxed with it. This was where the neighborhood was at lunchtime on a Monday: crowding together to put in orders for fried chicken and fries. The cost of two wings and fries was laughable, only two dollars and twenty-five cents. The price was once lower, the \$2.25 written on paper that had been taped over the last price. One of the women behind the counter was at least in her forties or fifties, another might have been as young as twenty, and a third woman looked to be in her sixties. Age was always hard to tell with black folk. |
| c) | “What you doing over here, honey?” the oldest woman asked. Her voice was sly and soft. She wiped the counter down, but kept her eyes on Constance. |
| d) | They all lived in DC, had ever since they graduated from Georgetown together. A couple were lawyers who went from undergrad to Georgetown Law. |
| e) | “Connie brought home this chicken, like the best chicken I've ever had. But then she tries to get me to try this stuff called, wait what is it?” Brian said. He had his hand around a bottle of beer, the other on Constance's knee, “Mambo sauce”, she said, wishing he hadn't brought it up.
“Oh yeah, we call it ghetto sauce,” Alissa said. She laughed and the men joined. Constance strained a smile. |

SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE



Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

Auszug aus:

Camille Acker: Mambo Sauce

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

[School-Scout.de](https://www.school-scout.de)



Camille Acker: *Mambo Sauce* – Exploring the challenges of modern Black identity

Rita Reinheimer Wolf



In dieser Einheit analysieren die Lernenden die Short Story „Mambo Sauce“ von Camille Acker in ihren inhaltlichen sowie formalen Facetten. Dies beinhaltet eine intensive Auseinandersetzung mit den beiden Protagonisten Constance und Brian, einerseits und den Merkmalen der Erzählperspektive andererseits. Mithilfe vielfältiger Methoden werden inhaltliche und emotionale Zugänge zu den Kurzgeschichte für jungst. Lesenden und Leser geschaffen. Hierbei erarbeiten die Lernenden auch, wie sie ihre Lernerfahrungen auf ihre konkrete Lebenswelt und ihren jeweiligen Kontext übertragen können.

RAABE
LEHRERBILDUNG