



Preparation Material Money Matters

Dear students,

Soon you will see a performance of MONEY MATTERS from Platypus Theater. Here is some information about the play.

The story

Three adults, Mechthild, Harry and Grace, meet by chance at a German airport in the year 2040. They haven't seen each other since they were at primary school together in London in 2020. They are very surprised to meet again and play out scenes from their childhood. The childhood story centres around a school trip to Germany. All three want to go on the trip, but Mechthild doesn't have enough money. She is sad about this. Grace and Harry try to help raise money so that Mechthild can go with them. The three children earn money doing small jobs but they still don't have enough so they have to try something else and this leads to trouble.

The play has two stories, the children's story and the adult's story. The adult story is short but important, because it shows what sort of adults Mechthild, Harry and Grace become. The adult scenes are mainly in German, so you should be able to understand them well. In the childhood story most of the scenes are in English.

There are three actors in our play. They play 3 roles each.

Dawn Robinson: she plays "Mechthild" as a child, Mechthild as an adult and Harry's mother Vanessa.

Carolin Ott: she plays Grace as a child, as an adult and Mechthild's mother Gabi.

Joshua Spriggs: He plays Harry as a child, as an adult and the teacher Mr. Pimm.

The characters

Mechthild and her mother Gabi Schäfer: Mechthild is eleven years old and lives with her mother in a small flat in North London. Her mother Gabi, is from Germany but moved to England hoping for a better life. Gabi is having trouble with the English language and has low paid work as a cleaning lady. Mechthild speaks good English. She tells her friends that her name is Hilda because they have trouble saying the word "Mechthild."

Grace Thorpe: Grace is eleven years old and lives with her mother and father who have good jobs. They are "middle class." Her parents own their own house and have a vegetable garden in the back yard. Grace is helpful and has good ideas.

Harry Jenkins. Harry is eleven years old. His parents are very, very rich. They belong to the so called "super rich." Harry can have anything he wants and can pay for things he wants to buy with paypal. His mother, Vanessa, has a big house with servants and a swimming pool. Harry's grandparents are also rich.

Mr Pimm is the school teacher of Mechthild, Grace and Harry. You will learn about Mr Pimm in the parent-teacher scene.



Do you know these words?

to give away	verschenken		a mix up	ein Durcheinander
to share	teilen		permission	die Erlaubnis
to swap	tauschen		minimum wage	der Mindestlohn
to beg	betteln		embarrassing	peinlich
to distract	ablenken		to give away	verschenken
to steal	stehlen		to share	teilen
to clean	saubermachen		to swap	tauschen
you have stolen	du hast gestohlen		to beg	betteln
to rob a bank	eine Bank überfallen		to distract	ablenken
to fire someone	jemanden entlassen		to steal	stehlen
you are fired	du bist entlassen		to clean	saubermachen
honest	ehrlich		you have stolen	du hast gestohlen
detention	das Nachsitzen		profit	der Profit
cash	das Bargeld		to explain	erklären
foundation	die Stiftung		generous	großzügig
co-incidence	der Zufall		misunderstanding	das Missverständnis
embarrassing	peinlich		to solve a crime	ein Verbrechen aufklären

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Important to know: Money Matters (Geld Angelegenheiten)

In Great Britain people use pounds/pence to pay.



In German, the word for foundation is a "Stiftung." A rich person or company, gives money. This is to be used for a particular thing.

What does "profit" mean?

Activites

Do you ever work for money? Do you have a job? You could play a game with your fellow pupils. Show the action for a job that you do to earn money (mime). The other pupils can guess what the job is. e.g. cleaning windows.

Who is Robin Hood and why is he famous?

Discuss these two sentences with your classmates and your teacher.

- 1) There will always be very rich people and very poor people. That's the way it is in life.
- 2) If poor people work hard, they can get rich.

We have a song in our play. Here is the chorus

"The rich get richer/the poor get poorer/that's a matter of fact

The rich get richer the poor get poorer/must it be like that?"

How would you translate the chorus into German?

Envy

Are you envious (neidisch) of what other children have? Or do other people envy you for what you have?



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Advertising: The theme of advertising is in our play.

Homework for each pupil: On your way home from school try to observe and remember the advertising that you see. You may see advertising on walls, on LED signs, on the outside of a bus, in the train or on the walls of a bus stop shelter. You can write down what you see or take a photo.

Or, if you see no street or outdoor advertising, you can take note of advertisements you see on your phone, on your computer or on your television.

The next day in class: Group activity.

Divide your class into groups of four or five.

Share with the others in the group the list of the advertisements you saw on your way home from school. What are the products that are being advertised? Make a list of all the advertising you saw.

Then each group can share with their list with the whole class.

Discuss in the class group: Do you buy any of the products you see in advertisements? How does advertising affect you? When you see an advertisement for a hamburger, do you feel hungry? When you see an advertisement for a drink like Coke or Fanta do you feel thirsty? Do you feel frustrated if you haven't got enough money to buy what you see? Do you like to look at advertisements? Do you know the words used in advertisements?

Get in touch with us!

Write to us, send us drawings and comments via

E-Mail (Mail@platypus-theater.de),

Instagram (@platypustheater) and

Facebook (Platypus Theater).