

MONEY MATTERS

-Student Pages-

Dear Students,

welcome to the preparation material (das Vorbereitungsmaterial) for the show „Money Matters“. Auf Deutsch: ‘Geld is wichtig’ oder ‘Geldangelegenheiten’.

What do you think the show will be about?

Let’s find out together!

See you soon!

Platypus Theater

1. Characters and story line

“**Money Matters**” follows the story of 3 characters Mechthild, Grace and Harry. The story takes place in the capital city of the United Kingdom, London. The 3 characters went to primary school together. Twenty years later they meet at an airport. They start talking about when they went to school together and suddenly we jump into their story and meet them as primary school kids.

Mechthild is eleven years old and lives with her mother Gabi Schäfer in a small flat in North London. Her mother is from Germany but she moved to London hoping for a better life. Gabi works as a low paid cleaner and is having trouble with the English language. Mechthild speaks English well. Her nickname is Hilda.

Grace Thorpe is eleven years old and lives with her mother and father who have good jobs. Her parents own a house and have a vegetable garden in the backyard. Grace is helpful and has good ideas.

Harry Jenkins is eleven years old. His parents are very very rich. Harry can have anything he wants. His mother Vanessa has a big house and owns a largen company. They have servants and a swimming pool.

In the story, the three primary school students are looking forward to a school trip to Berlin. They all want to go on the trip. Hilda’s mum cannot pay the money for it so she cannot go. They are all sad about this. They try to find ways to earn enough money so Hilda can join the schooltrip.



English	German
to share	teilen
to swap	tauschen
to beg	betteln
to steal	stehlen
to lie	lügen
embarrassing	peinlich
to earn money	Geld verdienen
to clean	saubermachen
to rob a bank	eine Bank überfallen
to fire someone	jemanden entlassen
honest	Ehrlich
detention	Nachsitzen
cash	Bargeld
coincidence	Zufall
minimum wage	Mindestlohn
a mix up	Eine Verwechslung
permission	Erlaubnis
to distract	ablenken
profit	Profit / Gewinn
to explain	erklären
generous	großzügig
misunderstanding	Missverständnis
foundation	Stiftung

3. Connect the boxes – Money Currencies (Geld-Währungen)

Around the world there are a lot of different types of money. Here you see some examples. Connect the currency with the country where it is used and the matching coin.

	currency		Country where its used		1 coin
1	Euro (1 €, 1 euro=100 cents)		Turkey		
	Sterling (1 £, 1 pound=100 pence)	1	in 20 countries around Europe e.g. Germany, Belgium, Austria, How are the European countries said/written in English?		
	Zloty (1 zł)		Poland		
	Lira (1 ₺, 1 lira=100 kurus)		Czech Republic	1	
	Franc (1 CHF)		United Kingdom		
	Koruna (1 Kč)		Switzerland		

4. Scene from the show

3 characters:

Vanessa – Harry’s mother. She is wealthy and successful

Harry - her son, 11 years old

Gabi – Hilda’s mum. She is a cleaner at Vanessa’s office her English is not very good.

The scene takes place in Vanessa Jenkins office. *Vanessa is talking on her mobile, Harry enters.*

Vanessa The charity dinner tonight. 1000 pounds? It has to be cash? Hmm, let’s see. Aha found some, no problem. (She sees Harry) I’ll see you tonight. (Hangs up) Harry, what are you doing here?

Harry Hi Mum. Can you sign this please?

Vanessa What’s this?

Harry I need your permission to go on our school trip.

Vanessa Oh, you’re going on a school trip? That’s wonderful. Where should I sign?

Harry Here.

Vanessa Where are you going?

Harry To Germany.

Vanessa Brilliant! I love Germany. 600 pounds for a trip to Germany? That’s cheap.

Harry Cheap?

Vanessa I’d love to come with you!

Harry No way mum. Kids only!

Vanessa Okay, I’ll pay it tomorrow.

Harry Actually, I need another 390 pounds.

Vanessa Ah! For the food, am I right?

Harry I need the other 390 pounds for my friend Hilda.

Vanessa Hilda? I don’t know Hilda.

Harry She hasn’t got 390 pounds, her mother is poor.

Vanessa That’s a lot of money.

Harry You just said 600 pounds was cheap!

Vanessa You don’t give money to strangers.

Harry She’s not a stranger. She’s my friend. And you have millions of pounds!

Vanessa We earned every cent we have.

Harry No you didn’t. Grandpa was rich. Why can’t you just give away 390 pounds?

Vanessa You don’t give away money like that.

Harry It’s sharing. You say I have to share.

Vanessa Yes, but there’s sharing and sharing.

Harry Please Mum. We earned already 210 pounds doing jobs. I sang in the street and earnt 30 pounds!

Vanessa What?

Harry Aren’t you proud of me?

Vanessa No. That’s begging. It’s dangerous.

Harry No, it was fun!

Vanessa And what if somebody saw you?

Harry Who cares? Mum... we have so much. We have a beach house in Hawaii, a penthouse in New York and a mansion in London. Hilda and her mum have a tiny one room apartment.

Vanessa Only one room?

Harry We have a private jet and they don't even have a car!

Vanessa No car?

Harry Mum, we have tickets to every Liverpool football game and Hilda doesn't even have a football to kick around. We have to help! We are rich and they are poor.

Vanessa It's nice that you want to help. But people have to earn their own money.

Harry Hilda's mum is a cleaner. She works hard but she gets very little money.

Vanessa I am sorry, but I can't give money to everybody I feel sorry for. (The phone rings and Vanessa takes the call. At this moment Gabi enters, she is a cleaner in Vanessa's office block). The island yeah. Can we get it for 8 million? Great, buy it! No more than 8.5 Million. Great. Call me back.

Gabi I be fast.

Harry Mrs. Scheffer? Mrs Scheffer, it's you?

Gabi Oh Harry!

Harry This is my mum!

Vanessa (to Gabi) You can come back later. Thank you.

Harry No mum this is Hilda's mum! Mrs Scheffer.

Vanessa Oh.

Harry She works for you? Oh, she works for you!

Vanessa What a coincidence.

Gabi I come back. Not disturb. (starts to leave)

Harry Mrs Scheffer...don't worry, Grace and I are helping Hilda to get the money for the school trip.

Vanessa Harry, don't embarrass her. Thank you Mrs Scheffer, you can come back later.

Gabi Thank you. Good bye. (Gabi leaves)

Harry Goodbye. Mum....How much money does she get?

Vanessa I don't know. Probably the minimum wage, 9 pounds an hour.

Harry You must pay her more.

Vanessa If I paid her more, I would have to pay all the cleaners here more.

Harry How much money do you earn?

Vanessa That is none of your business. End of conversation. (Telephone rings) 10 Million? I said 8 million! No, No, okay 8.5. It is a very small island.
(Harry takes a 1000 pound banknote out of Vanessa's purse.)

Vanessa Okay. (Ends telephone call). Pack up. Let's go.

Harry Where are we going?

Vanessa I'm taking you home.

Harry Are you home for dinner tonight?

Vanessa No darling not tonight. I'm going to be at a charity dinner!

Harry What's charity?

Vanessa We're raising money for poor children in Somalia. I'm going to be sitting at the same table as Billie Eilish and Sadio Mane.

Harry Raising money for poor people in Somalia? But there are poor people here Mum, like Hilda and her mum.

Vanessa Okay Robin Hood, let's go! Speaks on the phone Please bring the car. We'll be down in 2 minutes.

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2l2Vllh15M>

Quiz:

Robin Hoods clothes were the colour?

- a) red
- b) green
- c) yellow
- d) blue

What is an outlaw?

- a) a criminal
- b) a clown
- c) a baker
- d) a cook

From who took Robin Hood money?

- a) the rich
- b) farmers
- c) the cows
- d) the chickens

To who did he give the stolen things?

- a) the rich
- b) to people who need it

Complete the missing words:

Robin Hood became famous for robbing from the_____ and giving it to the_____.

Nowadays Robin Hood is still a?

- a) hero
- b) villain

What do you think about what Robin Hood did?

- _____

Why do you think Vanessa calls her son Harry "Robin Hood" in the scene in the previous exercise?

- Can you correct Gabi's English? Mark the sentences she says and see if you can find the right way to write and say them.

6. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer

A song in our play:

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?

There's Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook and
Google
Why are billionaires tight and frugal?
We care for others, we give money away
Can we believe what billionaires say?

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?

What's the use of all that money?
There aren't enough things to buy
And you know there are people starving
We've got to help or at least try

- A) Read the lyrics of the song together with the class.
- B) Translate the chorus of the song to German.

English	German
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?	

- C) Write down the correct class in the blank spaces

There are 3 classes of wealth in society: upper class, middle class and lower class. Match the correct class with the character. You can look at the first page at the description of the characters if needed.

Mechthild is part of the _____ class in society.

Grace is part of the _____ class in society.

Harry is part of the _____ class in society.

D) Group discussion:

- Envy means “Neid” in German.
 - Are you envious (neidisch) of what other children have?
 - Or do other people envy you for what you have?
 - What do you envy other people for? (worauf bist du neidisch?)

You can make a list as a class on the board or in groups.

- Another theme in the play is advertising:
 - What is the last advertisement you saw? Maybe it was on the street, on tv, on your phone on tiktok or instagram,...
 - Do you sometimes buy any of the products you see in advertisement?
 - When you see an advertisement for a hamburger, do you feel hungry?
 - Do you feel frustrated if you haven't got enough money to buy what you see?

SEE YOU SOON!

Platypus Theater Team