

V.287

Unterrichtsmagazin

Interpreting Sefi Atta's "Green" – Abiturtraining kompakt (S II)

Dirk Beyer



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„On the Move: Migration and Cross-Cultural Encounters“ – so lautet das Schwerpunktthema des baden-württembergischen Zentralabiturs ab 2025. Durch die Kurzgeschichte und Pflichtlektüre „Green“ der Autorin Sefi Atta lernen Ihre Schülerinnen und Schüler die Alltagswirklichkeit einer nigerianisch-amerikanischen Akademiker-Familie in den USA aus der Perspektive der dort geborenen Tochter unter interkulturellen und transkulturellen Aspekten kennen und reflektieren. Mithilfe abwechslungsreicher Methoden erarbeiten sie sowohl Hintergrundwissen zu kulturellen Überschneidungen und Differenzen als auch Informationen zur Autorin und ihrem Werk.

KOMPETENZEN



Klassenstufe/Lernjahr: 11/Q1/Q2 (G8), 12/13 (G9); 7./8. Lernjahr (G8), 8./9. Lernjahr (G9)

Dauer: 6 Unterrichtsstunden

Kompetenzen: 1. Leseverstehen: literarische Texte verstehen; 2. Umgang mit Texten: Textdeutungen entwickeln; 3. Interkulturelle kommunikative Kompetenz: z. B. kritisches Reflektieren anderer Kulturen

Inhalt: *Nigeria* (Landeskunde, Themen und Motive nigerianischer Literatur), *coming-of-age*, *growing up*, *global challenges*, *stories of migration and cross-cultural encounters*

Medien: *LearningApps*, Video(link)s

Zusätzlich benötigt: Kurzgeschichte „Green“ von Sefi Atta

Auf einen Blick

1. Stunde

Thema: Background information – An introduction

M 1 **Focus on Nigeria – Background information** / einen Sachtext über Nigeria mithilfe unterschiedlicher Lesestrategien erfassen; kontroverse Themen des heutigen Nigerias diskutieren; die Kurzgeschichte inhaltlich vorbereiten (EA/PL)

Benötigt: M 1 digital oder als Kopie

2. Stunde

Thema: Sefi Atta – Learning about the author and playwright

M 2 **Focus on the author – Sefi Atta's biography** / biografische Informationen der Autorin anhand eines Textes erarbeiten und mithilfe eines Videos vertiefen (EA, PA)

Hausaufgabe: Kurzgeschichte „Green“ lesen und unbekanntes Vokabular nachschlagen (EA)

Benötigt: M 2 digital oder als Kopie
 digitale Endgeräte/Whiteboard zum Betrachten des YouTube-Videos

3. Stunde

Thema: The short story "Green" – Reading and understanding

M 3 **Sefi Atta's "Green" – Getting to know the short story** / die Kurzgeschichte inhaltlich erfassen sowie wichtige Details erarbeiten (EA)

Benötigt: M 3 digital oder als Kopie
 digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang zur Bearbeitung der *LearningApps*
 Kurzgeschichte „Green“



4. Stunde

Thema: Intercultural elements and aspects of belonging in "Green"

M 4 **Focus on intercultural identity in "Green" – Nigerian American influences** / nigerianische und interkulturelle Elemente der Kurzgeschichte erfassen sowie das Thema „Identität“ bezogen auf die Figuren analysieren und mit den Hintergrundinformationen verknüpfen (EA)

Focus on the author – Sefi Atta’s biography

M 2

Sefi Atta is one of Nigeria’s most famous and prestigious playwrights.

About the author – Sefi Atta

Sefi Atta is a Nigerian American author, screenwriter and playwright. She was born in Lagos in 1964 and lives in the USA, England and Nigeria with her husband and her daughter. Her work received worldwide attention and was awarded with the Wole Soyinka Prize for African Literature as well as the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa.



After attending Queen’s College in Lagos, Atta continued her education in England, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985. She qualified as a chartered accountant before focusing on a professional career as a writer. She migrated to the USA in 1990 and continued her studies in Creative Writing, which she finished with a graduated master’s degree from Antioch University in Los Angeles.

Atta became famous for writing novels, short stories, screenplays and essays. Her novels and short stories have been translated into various languages and her plays are performed around the globe. In addition to her family, Sefi Atta supports a number of charity programs focusing on teaching young African children to read and write.

Source: Text by author D. Beyer; www.sefiatta.com [Last access: 15/11/2024]

Tasks

1. Read the short biography of Sefi Atta.
2. Watch the first part of the video “Channels Book Club: Sefi Atta Speaks on Her Latest Book ‘Selected Plays’” (4:30–10:00 min.) https://raabe.click/sefi_atta_video. Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

Statement	True	False
a) Sefi Atta’s first written work was the short story “Green”.		
b) According to Atta, playwriting is easier than novel writing.		
c) Nigerian theatre productions have gained popularity in the last years.		
d) “The Englishman” was Sefi Atta’s first major success.		
e) There is a connection between money and the quality of drama scripts.		

3. Watch the second part of the video (10:00–15:00 min.): https://raabe.click/sefi_atta_video. Take notes on the questions a) and b). Compare your results with a partner.
 - a) How does Sefi Atta describe the major differences between African and Western theatre audiences?
 - b) According to Atta, sum up the major effects of theatre visits on people.
4. Discuss in class: Sefi Atta focuses on the success of her plays in Nigeria (Lagos). Think about possible reasons for this.



M 5



Focus on narration – Analysing family relationships in “Green”

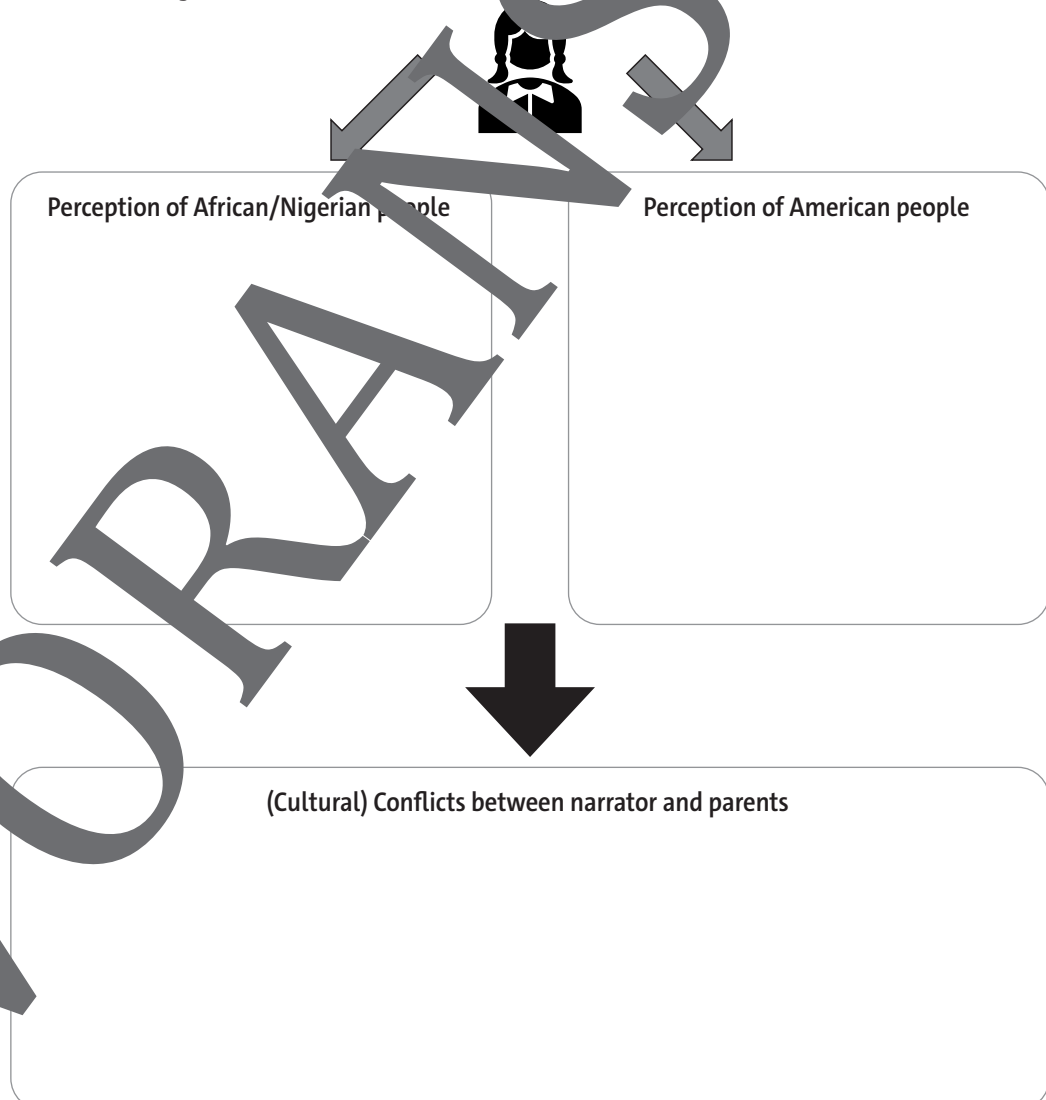
The narrator of “Green” is a nine-year old girl who was born in the USA and whose parents are from Nigeria.

Info box: First person narrator

The first-person narrative tells or describes a story from the first-person's perspective. It shows the story through the perspective of a story's main character (protagonist) and tells the whole story. Therefore, the pronouns “I” or “me” play an important role. The advantage of the first-person narrative is that the readers get to know the protagonist very well – but they do not get an inside view of the other major or minor characters.

Tasks

1. Skim through the short story again and highlight all the information you can find about the narrator.
2. Describe the relationship between the narrator and her parents. How does the narrative perspective influence the way the narrator thinks of African or American people. Make notes in the following chart:



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