

# **Abiturprüfung 2003**

## **ENGLISCH**

als Grundkursfach

– Textteil –

**Arbeitszeit: 210 Minuten**

Der Prüfling hat **e i n e** Textaufgabe seiner Wahl  
nach den Arbeitsanweisungen des beiliegenden Aufgabenteils zu bearbeiten.

## Textaufgabe I

## Kings of Spray

Judging from the crowd, it could have been any trendy gallery opening in New York or London. Rail-thin fashionistas<sup>1</sup> clutched Gucci<sup>2</sup> bags as they wobbled around on stiletto heels. Slender young men adjusted horn-rimmed glasses before cooing over a painting's "sense of color" and "emotion". The only people who seemed out of place were the artists themselves – a small clutch of bleary-eyed wanderers with hooded sweat shirts and matted hair – who go by the "tags" Mak 1, Mantis and Eeb. They work not in oils or pastels but in spray paint, producing graffiti art that has made them the talk of Cape Town. And they've always done their best work under cover of night, when nobody else is looking.

Now Cape Town's art establishment can't take its eyes off them. Impressed by the enormous murals brightening large swaths of the city – many supporting causes like anti-retroviral drugs<sup>3</sup> for AIDS patients or quitting smoking – gallery owners have begun inviting the graffiti artists to exhibit their work on canvases. The shows have become so popular that some of the artists can now make a living solely off their graffiti. Advertisers, corporations, political candidates – even private art collectors – are commissioning their work. Two of the country's top graffiti artists, Mak 1 and Falko, have been hired to decorate buildings for the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens. At home they lecture at universities and recently organized a "graffiti tour" of the township where they painted their first murals.

So it came as a surprise two months ago when city officials announced a crackdown on graffiti. "We were shocked," says Mantis. "One minute we're the kings of Cape Town, and the next minute everyone wants to see us disappear." Indeed, officials hoping to lure tourists and investors suddenly decided that the graffiti – which had gone largely unpoliced – was unsightly.

Contemporary graffiti art started in the 1980s in Cape Town's mixed-race, or "colored", communities. Inspired by television images of New York buildings and subway trains covered with graffiti, a few young artists created their own tags, spray-painting their signatures on walls.

Today graffiti has spread to the affluent southern suburbs and is becoming popular elsewhere in the country as well. Two of Cape Town's most admired artists – Mantis and Tyler Murphy – are white. "The graffiti scene is the only place in Cape Town where everyone is judged strictly on skill. We don't care what you look like because so many of us are rootless ourselves, trying to create a culture that's not like the one we grew up with," says Murphy.

Even graffiti art's staunchest opponents are reluctant to criticize their murals, which not only are stunning but also incorporate such elusive values as racial harmony and opportunity for the disenfranchised<sup>4</sup>. Officials are careful to distinguish the murals from tags, the ugly signature scrawls that mar the city landscape. While they're hoping to eradicate tagging, they don't want to ban murals outright. "We simply want to regulate them, the way you would regulate putting up a billboard," says Executive Councilor for Safety and Health Ian Neilson. City councilor Jean-Pierre Smith, who hired graffiti artist Sky 189 to paint a mural for his campaign, is worried about the impact on the artists' livelihood. "We're just seeking to clean up the city, not to criminalize their profession," he says.

Some believe officials have fixated on graffiti because Cape Town's bigger problems – poverty, homelessness, crime – are so intractable. Six months ago art editor Roger Lucey commissioned three graffiti artists to paint a piece on

the front wall of his suburban home, prompting his outraged neighbors to file a complaint with the city council. "My neighbors say I'm bringing crime into the area, but it's just a bloody piece of art work," he says. "They're so afraid of young people's real problems that they fix on small things like this." Like that of  
 55 all art, it seems, graffiti's appeal lies squarely in the eye of the beholder.

From: *Newsweek*, April 29, 2002

#### Annotations

- 1 fashionistas: people who follow all the latest fashions
- 2 Gucci: Italian fashion designer
- 3 anti-retroviral drugs: drugs for people who are infected with HIV
- 4 disenfranchised: *here*: disadvantaged

#### Textaufgabe II

From: Barbara Kingsolver, *The Bean Trees*, 1988

One block down and across the street, old Bobby Bingo sold vegetables out of his dilapidated truck. Lou Ann had been tempted by his tomatoes, which looked better than the hard pink ones at the grocery; those didn't seem like tomatoes at all, but some sickly city fruit maybe grown inside a warehouse.  
 5 She had finally collected the nerve to ask how much they cost and was surprised that they were less than grocery tomatoes. On her way home she made up her mind to buy some more.

"Hi, tomato lady," Bingo said. "I remember you."

She flushed. "Are they still forty-five a pound?"

10 "No, fifty-five. End of the season."

"That's okay," she said. "It's still a good price." She looked at every one in the box and picked out six, handing them to the old man one at a time with her free hand. With her other hand she adjusted the baby on her hip taking extra care, as she had been instructed, to support his wobbly head. "Your tomatoes  
 15 are the first good ones I've had since back home." She felt her heart do something strange when she said "back home".

Bobby Bingo had skin like a baked potato. A complete vegetable man, Lou Ann thought, though she couldn't help liking him.

He squinted at her. "You're not from here? I didn't think so." He shook out a  
 20 wad of odd-sized plastic bags, chose one with red letters on it, and bagged the tomatoes. "Seventy-five," he said, weighing them up and down in his hand

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before he put them on the scales. "And an apple for Johnny," he said, picking out a red apple and shaking it at the baby.

25 "His name's Dwayne Ray, and he thanks you very much I'm sure but he don't have any teeth yet." Lou Ann laughed. She was embarrassed, but it felt so good to laugh that she was afraid next she would cry.

"That's good," Bingo said. "Soon as they get teeth, they start to bite. You know my boy?"

Lou Ann shook her head.

30 "Sure you do. He's on TV every night, he sells cars. He's a real big guy in cars."

"Sorry," she said. "I don't have a TV. My husband took it to his new apartment." She couldn't believe, after deceiving her own mother and grandmother for two entire weeks, that she was admitting to a complete 35 stranger on the street that her marriage had failed.

He shook his head. "Don't worry about it. Makes me sick every time he comes on. Don't even call himself by his own name – 'Bill Bing' he says. 'Come on down to Bill Bing Cadillac<sup>1</sup>,' he says. 'Bill Bing has just the thing.' I always wanted him to be a real big guy, you know. Well, look at him now. He 40 don't even eat vegetables. If he was here right now he would tell you he don't know who I am. 'Get rid of that old truck,' he says to me. 'What you need to sell this garbage for? I could buy you a house in Beverly Hills<sup>2</sup> right now,' he says to me. 'What?' I tell him. 'You crazy? Beverly Hills? Probably they don't even eat vegetables in Beverly Hills, just Alaska King Crab and bread sticks!' I tell 45 him. 'You want to make me happy, you give me a new Cadillac and I can sell my vegetables out of the trunk.'" Bingo shook his head. "You want grapes? Good grapes this week."

"No, just the tomatoes." She handed him three quarters.

"Here, take the grapes. Johnny can eat the grapes. Seedless." He put them 50 in the bag with the tomatoes. "Let me tell you something, tomato lady. Whatever you want the most, it's going to be the worst thing for you."

### Annotations

- 1 Cadillac: one of the most expensive and prestigious cars made in the US
- 2 Beverly Hills: a residential area of Greater Los Angeles, famous as the home of many film stars

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Der Prüfling hat e i n e Textaufgabe seiner Wahl zu bearbeiten.

**WORKSHEET: Kings of Spray**maximum number of  
points attainable**I. Questions on the text**

Read all the questions first, then answer them in the given order.  
Use your own words as far as is appropriate.

1. Describe and characterize the people attending the gallery opening referred to in the first paragraph. 10
2. In what way has the popularity of graffiti art affected the lives of some artists? 10
3. How has the city officials' attitude towards graffiti changed? Explain how they justify their new policy. 20
4. Trace the origin and the spread of graffiti art in South Africa. What does Murphy consider so special about the graffiti scene? 10
5. Describe Roger Lucey's experience and compare it to what is expressed in the title and in the first paragraph. 10
6. What does the text reveal about the writer's personal attitude towards graffiti? Give evidence from the text. 20

**II. Composition****40**

Choose one of the following topics. Write about 150 to 200 words.

1. "Let's stop subsidizing the arts – the taxpayers' money should be used for more important things." Discuss.
2. Like graffiti, the video clip has become a standard element of contemporary youth culture. Do you consider it art or "trash"?
3. Comment on the cartoon.



From: *New Yorker & Artist's Album* (1970)

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**III. Translation****40**

Translate the following text into German:

The mode of representation that prevails in murals painted in the 1980s and early 1990s shows black people as victims. Murals of this type tend to have an accusatory tone, their objective focused on the public representation of the injustices suffered by the black community at the hands of the white Apartheid regime. In these murals the depiction of blacks and whites almost always follows simple patterns: black people are represented as powerless receptors<sup>1</sup> of someone else's treatment, while whites assume the role of oppressors. A mural painted in 1982 by students on the Fort Hare University campus, for example, depicts scenes of violence commemorating the 1976 Soweto Riots. Blacks are shown as innocent victims of white oppression and martyrs; the responsibility for their suffering is so unmistakable and so universally understood to be on the part of the whites that there is no need to even represent the perpetrators.

**Annotation:**

1 receptor: noun derived from the verb "to receive"

From : "Negotiating Identity: Urban Community Mural Art in South Africa", in:  
*Art eJournal of the African World* (2001)

**WORKSHEET: Kingsolver, *The Bean Trees***

maximum number of  
points attainable

**I. Questions on the text**

Read all the questions first, then answer them in the given order.  
 Use your own words as far as is appropriate.

- |                                                                                                                                         |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Describe Lou Ann's personal situation; take into account her thoughts and feelings.                                                  | 20 |
| 2. Analyse the relationship between Bobby Bingo and his son as it is seen by the father.                                                | 20 |
| 3. Show how a personal relationship develops between Lou Ann and Bobby Bingo; examine the role of fruit and vegetables in this process. | 20 |
| 4. What mode of presentation and narrative perspective are used in the text? What is the effect on the reader?                          | 10 |
| 5. Examine the stylistic level of this passage and determine its function.                                                              | 10 |

**II. Composition****40**

Choose one of the following topics. Write about 150 to 200 words.

- "Children begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them. Rarely, if ever, do they forgive them." (O. Wilde) Do you agree?
- Genetically engineered vegetables – blessing or curse?
- Germans have often been smiled at for worrying about the quality of their food. Write a letter to the editor of a British or American magazine to justify these fears.

**III. Translation****40**

Translate the following text into German:

*The Bean Trees*<sup>1</sup> is an engaging novel for high school<sup>1</sup> students. The story begins with Taylor Greer's determination not to become pregnant in high school<sup>1</sup> and thus face a premature marriage that would likely result in her being stuck in Pittman County, Kentucky, the rest of her life. The story is uplifting, never depressing or sad, yet the subject matter is substantial and varied, ranging from the long-term effects of child abuse to the plight of Guatemalan political refugees.

The characters are admirable and engaging, and almost all are women. Yet, though this is basically a woman's novel, it is not a story without men; both Taylor and Lou Ann exhibit interest in the opposite sex. Furthermore, Taylor is tough enough to elicit admiration from even the most macho males in the class. And Taylor's independent, adventuresome spirit appeals to their yearning to go into the world.

1 nicht übersetzen

From: Karen and Philip Kelly, "Barbara Kingsolver's *The Bean Trees*: A New Classroom Classic", *English Journal* (1997).