

English short stories

The story behind it

The short stories you are about to read are the work of year 10 from 2021_22 at the Heinrich-Böll-Schule in Hattersheim.

One day, our English teacher hung a printed picture on the blackboard. It showed a girl in front of a house in the middle of the night and a school bus driving along the street.

We split up in groups of 5, then drew pictures that showed what happened before and after the given picture. In the next lesson, we presented our picture story in front of the class. After hearing our presentations, we started to edit our stories.

In the following you can read some of our short stories. We hope you enjoy reading the short stories.

Table of contents

1. The city
2. New York's electrical breakdown
3. Dream with a message
4. The mystery case in Greenland

The city

Once upon a time, there was a little girl living in a suburb. This suburb was mundane in any sense of the word. There were no other children, no fun activities to do after homework was finished and her parents didn't want to do anything adventurous with her either, which made her feel vacant and bothersome. The only thing that gave her joy in her boring life was her fluffy, purple teddy bear, Mr. Hugs. He was a present from someone who used to be her best friend but since he and his family had to move to the city, he left it to her.

One fateful day, wanting to relax after a tough day at work, her father was watching the news. Out of conceit with her father, her hometown and her life, the little girl tightened her grip around Mr. Hugs' wrist and made a determined decision. Brimming with excitement she waited for the night to come so she could go and visit her friends in the city.

When it finally got dark and her family went to sleep, she snuck out and ran to a bus which usually stopped in front of her house at that exact hour. The vehicle was jam-packed with young adults who drank, danced and shouted to loud music. In all that turmoil, it was quite easy to sneak inside. When inside the bus, the little girl immediately sat down in a corner between two seats hoping not to be found. Some of the young folk seemed to notice her but didn't seem to care. Her heart was beating very fast, while she was observing the scene. There were so many colours and so much noise that it was too much for her to process.

Suddenly, a young man started lurching in her direction. "Whht aree yu doin heree? Isn' id past your beddime?" he slurred. The girl squeaked and closed her eyes in despair. The strange man was frightening her. At this very moment, the bus came to a hold. Not recognizing her fear, the man picked her up and said: "Ids lade... you relly schud go home now."

Half a minute later, the little girl was left thunderstruck at the station, hugging her bear tightly. She slowly turned around which relieved her for a second, she couldn't believe her luck- she was in the city. But that relieve quickly turned into horror as she looked at the intimidating buildings towering over her and the other citizens. Those citizens weren't making her feel at ease either. There was a man lying on the ground, a bottle in his hand, slowly losing its contents. Two guys who passed a syringe to each other had an empty look in their eyes. Out of nowhere, the girl felt a tap on her shoulder. She gasped and turned her head around shivering with anxiety. A nasty unshaved man whose body had the odour of alcohol and excrements was standing behind her. "Any spare change" the man asked with a metal cup in his hand.

That was too much. Grabbing Mr. Hugs more closely, the girl screeched and ran from the stranger with no destination in mind. After an eternity of running, she suddenly bumped into something.

It was a police officer and as the little girl looked up to him, a friendly smile appeared on his face. "What might such a fine lady do in a place like this at this time of the night?", he asked. "We got lost.", the girl whimpered. "And where might your friends be?" The little girl held up Mr. Hugs while looking at the ground shyly. "Ah and can you tell me where your parents are?" "At home." "And where is this home?" "Don't know". The officer sighted. "How about you come to the station with me? Oh wait, hold on.", he said after noticing a little sticker on the teddy bear. "Can I take your little friend? Does he have a name?" "I call him Mr. Hugs."

The little sticker on Mr. Hugs' foot had an address and a phone number written on it. An instant later, the police officer grabbed his keys, and they were on their way to the suburb. Observing the beautiful night through the car windows, the girl swore to herself that she would never run away again and start to appreciate her simple and mundane life.

New York's electrical breakdown

The beginning

A LONG TIME AGO...

it was a normal Saturday evening in New York City. Everybody was just relaxing in their home and did stuff like on a usual day. But suddenly, the electricity of the whole city failed. Everyone was wondering why, but nobody knew what just happened. After some time, a police department reported that a 30-year-old criminal named Dave, stole a school bus that contained the power of the city. This criminal had the power to charge himself up with electricity and could control everything that works with electricity. This is why the police officers couldn't follow him. While escaping Dave noticed some houses that still had a light source, which meant, that there was some power left in the city. He remembered that in the bus there were many wires so he started to build a wire that could get the power out of the whole house. After the wire was ready, he took it and put one part in a plug of the house and the other part in his body. The power started to come out and Dave started to become stronger.

Emily

WHILE lying in her comfortable and warm bed, Emily, a nine-year-old girl who goes to Arrow-primary-school and who likes to play soccer, heard a loud noise. She thought that it was some sort of vehicle door or that something heavy fell on the ground. Confused and curious, she headed down the stairs, through the kitchen where some snacks were sizzling, and into the living room. She saw her parents sitting in their fluffy and warm armchairs while watching an interesting movie. The parents noticed her and at first, they were angry at Emily because it was past her bedtime but then they just turned their heads and watched TV again. Emily was annoyed and after a couple of seconds she asked her parents, if they had heard anything outside, but they didn't seem to hear her. She repeated the question again, but they didn't hear her again. Emily heard another weird sound, so she proceeded to walk towards the noise. She arrived at the window and looked outside. There was a man, standing there, calm and menacingly. She opened the front door and walked outside.

The favour

DAVE approached Emily and asked her for a favor. He told her that the bus needed some power so that he could drive to his sick mother who was waiting for him in the hospital. What Emily didn't know was, that everything was a lie, and he was trying to get the last bit of electricity of the town to reach his maximum capacity of power. The young and nice girl chose to help the criminal.

Mistake

SHE took a closer look at Dave and slowly, she started walking towards him to get the wire. While walking, she thought of something bad and mysterious, something that wasn't good. She stood in front of Dave and looked him directly into his face. He had a big smile on his face and then he said that he couldn't wait to finally see his sick mother again thanks to her help. Emily put on a fake smile, turned around, and walked to the house-plug. She felt something weird in her right hand, where the wire was, some sort of tingle. She gripped the wire even harder and stuck it into the house-plug. Suddenly, the lights of the house went out and the wire began to glow in a yellow and blue light that was so bright and mesmerizing that Emily collapsed and fell on the ground. The power arrived at Dave's head, where the wire was connected to. Now he was glowing too.

A catastrophic event

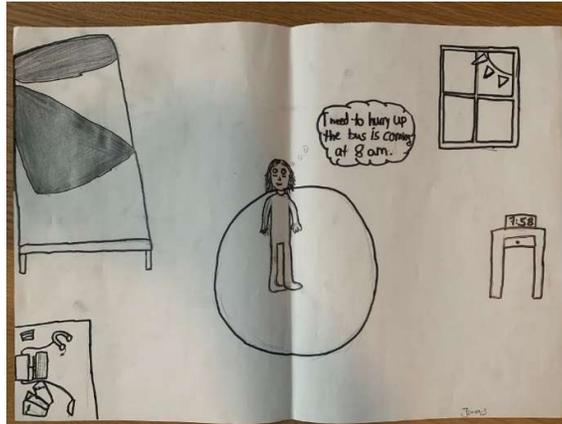
AFTER Dave had consumed all the electricity that Emily gave him, he could control everything with his mind. After this meaningful event, dark and rainy clouds appeared over the city and a storm was about to happen. Everybody in the city tried to hide in their homes because of the storm. The city was quiet but suddenly an enormous lightning struck Dave.

Smaller one's stroke around him in the ground and in trees. Because of the thunders and lightnings, everybody in the city were hiding in their homes and hoped that their house would not get destroyed. For a short moment, everything was quiet but then some stones started to levitate, and everybody wondered what was going to happen and they looked at Dave.

At the ground, a small shockwave began to form and expand. Everything inside the electrical field got electrocuted. But this wasn't everything, everyone looked at Dave because the electrical power, streamed through his veins. His skin color changed to some sort of blue and yellow. At the blink of an eye, the field imploded inside Dave his body. Dave took his hands in front of his chest and formed an unusual looking electrical ball. After that, he grabbed the ball with his right hand and walked towards Emily. Dave picked her up with his left hand and formed a shield bubble to protect her. ***BOOM*** He smashed the electrical ball into the ground and a massive explosion happened. Everything in a 100 km radius got destroyed and some kilometers further, buildings, streets and the environment started to collapse.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Dream with a message



Amy woke up very late this morning. After a quick look at the clock, she realized that she only had two minutes left to get ready for school and take the bus. She started panicking, put on her clothes, brushed her teeth, and in the hurry, she forgot to pack her homework. After she packed her school bag (she already forgot her homework, so this doesn't make any sense. Maybe ..."After getting ready,..."), Amy went downstairs into the living room. There she saw her mom and said a quick(revision) good morning. Because she needed to hurry, she walked straight to the fridge, took out the milk and made herself cornflakes. While having breakfast, she realized that something was strange. Something was different than every other morning before school. Amy thought about what it could be.



She thought about what happened so far this morning. Then she came to the realization (realized), that she wasn't able to talk to her mom. She saw her mom's lips moving but couldn't understand her. Amy didn't know why it was like that. She came to the conclusion that maybe it was because she was laying on her ears while sleeping or because it was cold and windy in her room that night. Because she was pressed for time, she didn't want to think about that anymore. She picked up her backpack from the floor and went outside. The bus was already waiting. She didn't know how long, but it seemed to be long because the bus driver honked at her. She sped up and hopped in the bus.

After she went into the bus, she saw that nobody was in the bus. That was strange because normally some children from her neighborhood and people from her school were in it. What could be the reason for that? There was the possibility that some people were sick or some had a late school start due to ill teachers. Amy wasn't in the mood to keep thinking about it, because she needed to calm down for her English test in the first lesson. That's why she put in her earphones and stopped focusing on her surroundings.



When the bus arrived at the school, Amy couldn't see a single person. Amy was very worried and scared because her best friend told her the day before that she would wait for her in front of the school. Not having enough time to think about it, a weird feeling pulled her inside the school. Her heart told her to run away from everything weird and strange, but her brain told her otherwise. She told her legs to run, but they weren't moving. So, she kept walking into the school building, constantly being scared of her next steps. She went to her classroom on the second floor, but the door was locked. That was the point when the panic rushed into every part of her body. Amy was shaking and she could not think of a way to get out of the situation. Then she heard some weird noises from below including someone coming up the stairs. There were voices which weren't understandable. Suddenly, the light went out and it was dark.



Amy woke up with her body shaking and covered in sweat. She didn't know where she was and what time it was. Then she realized the loud noises she heard came from her mum downstairs, talking to her dad. She also realized that everything was just a dream and that she still had one and a half hours left to prepare for school. She didn't go to bed again because she was afraid to have a nightmare again. So, Amy made herself breakfast, prepared her school bag, brushed her teeth and showered. When she was done with everything, Amy waited outside for the school bus. When she entered, the bus was completely empty and the doors closed immediately so she couldn't leave.

To Be Continued

The mystery case in Greenland

On August 13th, 1997, at 5:34 a.m., the body of a 7-year-old girl was found near a school in Greenland. She was wearing a patterned pyjama, no shoes and had two pigtails. The murder was believed to have happened between 9 and 11 p.m. on the day before. Giant male footprints in size 14 were found at the school. Further evidence state that there was a medium sized, yellow bus. We advise all parents who have children between the age of 6 and 12 to be careful and pay attention. Further details cannot be released. We believe that it was a cruel death.

After a bit, the police identified the girl as Emily Smith. She was the daughter of the well-known IT-experts Daniel Smith and Sophia Smith. They questioned Emily's parents, who told the police what they had done at that day.

The police was trying to gather all the evidence and potential suspects to get an overview of the whole situation. Some police officers tried to find out where the child was kidnapped because nothing made sense until her parents remembered that they were in the park and went home afterwards. That means that the child must have disappeared when the family was at home. Emily's parents were extremely upset because their daughter was kidnapped at home, which should have been a safe place for her. Daniel and Sophia tried to find a reason why all of this happened because they could not understand why she was murdered.

The investigation had been ongoing since the same day the body had been found. The police officers were at the place where the girl was expected to have disappeared. They carefully looked around the house and saw that the backdoor was open. The girl must have gone through the back door. The senior police officer imagined the situation in which the girl went through the door, but why did she leave the house?

By the end of the second day of investigation, all evidence led to one suspect: Gary Lee.

The police officer Warren talked to the 45-year-old man who lived across the street. He had a criminal record which said that he had killed two women on a parking lot.

"Where were you on August 12th, between 9 and 11 p.m.?", Ben Warren asked him.

"With my wife at home ", Gary answered.

The police officer Warren directly thought about his criminal record and couldn't believe what he heard. "He really wants me to believe what he just said."

"Can your wife confirm that you were at home at the time?"

"Yes. She is home with our children right now. You can talk to her when it is convenient for you."

That wouldn't fit. Why would a family man kill another child?

"We'll be in touch with you to take your wife's statement. Thank you for your time."

"No problem.", Gary replied.

The second suspect seemed to fit the crime pattern more. His name was Aaron Davies. He killed three 14-year-old children. According to his testimony, they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. The case goes back 30 years. Would a killer take a break for 30 years and then start killing again?

"Aaron Davies where were you on August 12th at 5:30 at night?"

"I was out for dinner with some friends. It was getting late. If you want to verify the statements, I can leave the names and addresses."

"That cannot be right. Why do they both have alibis? Something is not right here.", Ben Warren thought.

In the meantime, other suspects were questioned. None of them heard or saw anything, which means nobody could have been the murderer of the girl.

After that we questioned Joanne Brown. She seemed quite absent minded. Nervous.

"What could that mean? I must convince her to confide in me."

"Good afternoon, Joanne Brown. How are you?"

"I'm, I'm good thanks. Why am I here?"

"Where were you on August 12th from 9 to 11 in the night?"

"I was at home. Why?"

"A 7-year-old girl was killed. Did you see or hear anything?"

"No. Then why are you questioning me? Did I have anything to do with it?"

"I looked closely at your case file, and I noticed that you had your children taken away from you several times because you didn't care enough about them. There were three girls. Now I'm wondering if this has anything to do with the murder of Emily Smith."

"Yes, you're right. I had my children taken away from me because I was on drugs and could not take care of them. I am in rehab right now, trying to get clean. That night, a counsellor from the clinic was by my side to tell me about my progress from rehab. He can prove that I was there."

That would explain the nervousness and shaky legs. I have evidence. It could have been her, and now we are back to square one, reflects officer Warren.

The police officer questioned all the suspects on their list. None of them would have fit in the pattern of killing a child, because all of them had an alibi and could not have been at the crime scene at that time. Because of that, they had to start from the beginning. The evidence, they found on the crime scene, pointed to no other person. The officer was desperate and hopeless and went through all the evidence several times. What had been left out and who was the killer?

A few hours later the police officer Ben Warren went home and fell asleep immediately when he lay down in bed. In the middle of the night, Ben woke up sweating and in panic. 5 minutes

later, he realized that there never was a murderer who killed the 7-year-old girl in his village because he only dreamed it. He thought of this frightening dream and how much fear such a case would cause him, because this was one of his biggest nightmares what could happen to children. Then he noticed something on his nightstand. He bended over and saw a note drowned in blood. What could this mean?