

Global, Digital and (Slightly) Scary: New Forms of English Literature in The EFL Classroom

Workshop
Daniel Becker
Teachers' Day 2020
University of
Saarbrücken

October 1st, 2020

Jugendliche lesen weniger Bücher

3. April 2020 / von Börsenblatt

From:
<https://www.boersenblatt.net/archiv/1842899.html>

PISA 2018

Jeder fünfte 15-Jährige liest auf Grundschulniveau

From:
<https://deutsches-schulportal.de/bildungswesen/pisa-jeder-fuenfte-jugendliche-liest-auf-grundschulniveau/>

“Is Literature Dying in the Digital Age?” (Hammond 2016: 2)

Immer weniger Menschen lesen Bücher



von Dierk Wolters ▾

Die Verlagslandschaft ist im Umbruch. Doch Sorge machen in der Literaturstadt Frankfurt nicht nur zurückgehende Umsätze, sondern auch der Bedeutungsverlust der Literatur.

From:
<https://www.fnp.de/hessen/immer-weniger-menschen-lesen-buecher-10423486.html>

Let's face it: Literary fiction is fucking boring. It really is.

J. Robert Lennon (2013):
https://www.salon.com/2013/03/29/most_contemporary_literary_fiction_is_terrible/

NO,
IT REALLY ISN'T!!

It has just changed its
forms...



1. Contexts

- What is Literature?
- Changing Cultures, Changing Literature

2. Texts

- CliFi
- Instapoetry
- TikTok Performance

3. Even More Texts

- Some Honourable Mentions: Fictions of the Internet, Kinetic Poetry etc.

Contexts



Literature today is understood according to the *erweiterte Textbegriff* (cf. Hallet 2018)

Narrow Definition:

- written fictional/fictionalised texts
- Poetry, Prose Fiction, Drama



From: www.pixabay.com

Seven Major Trends:

- Globalisation
- Digitalisation
- Visual Turn
- Multiliteracies
- Multi-Optionality
- Diversity
- World Risks



From:
<https://voxeu.org/content/globalisation-doomed>

“the cultural dynamic of generic change“ (Basseler/Nünning/Schwanecke 2013)

Four processes:

Existing genres adapt to new themes and topics (e.g. CliFi as dystopian fiction)

Hybridisation of two or more genres (e.g. text-talk fiction; cf. Thomson 2016)

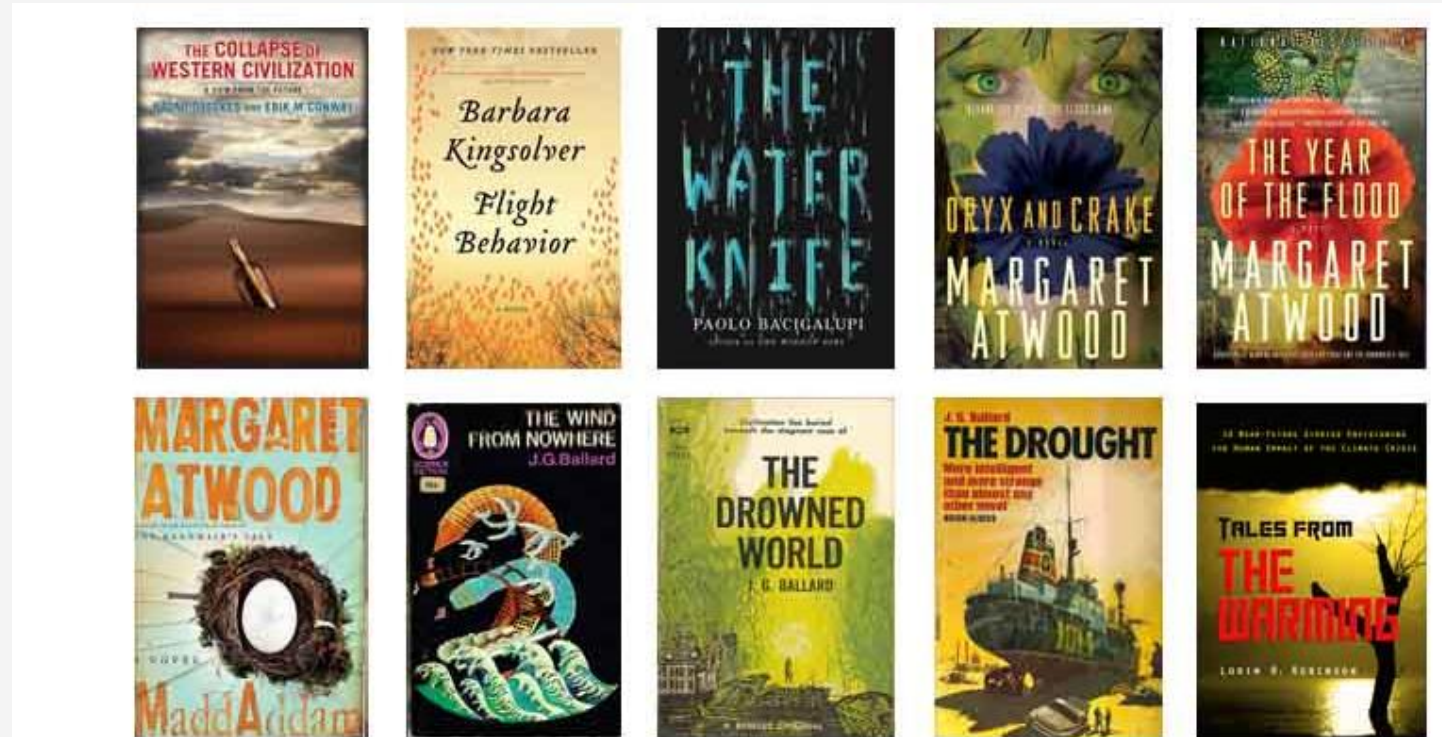
Remixing of literary classics/Fanfiction (e.g. Kyra Bane's *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*)

New genres develop out of new digital environments (e.g. kinetic poetry, hypertext fiction)

Texts: Some Examples

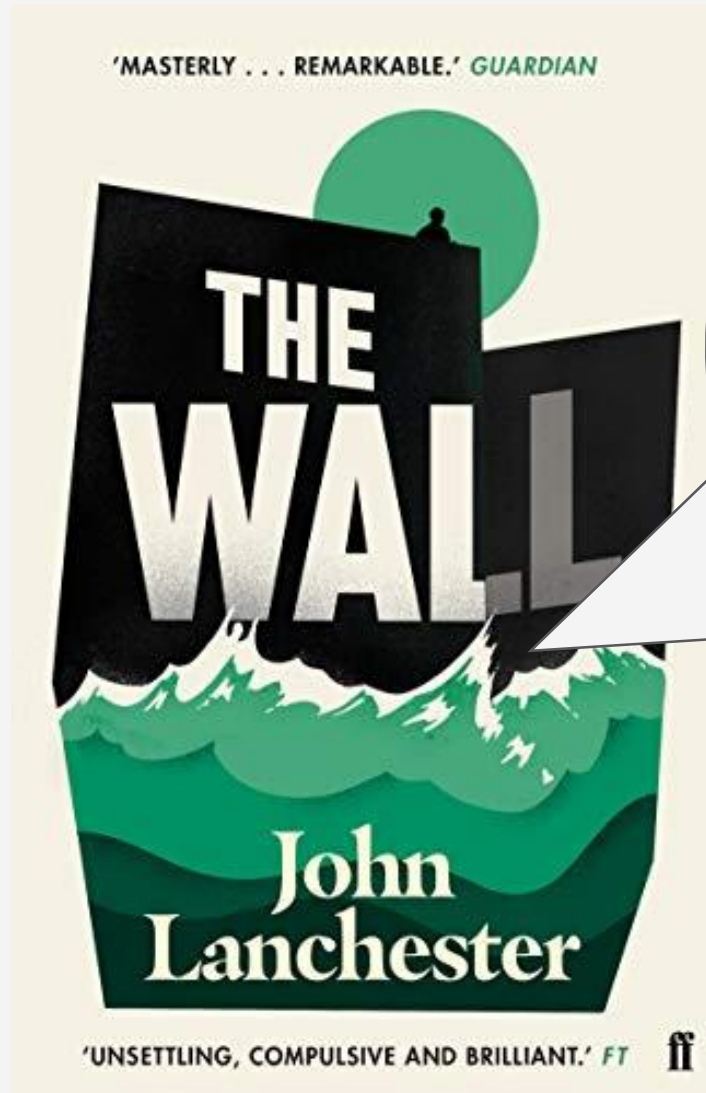


- A form of dystopian fiction
- Setting: the near future
- Societies in desolate state, caused by environmental pollution/ climate change
- Setting often introduced through one of the characters (i.e. personal perspective)



From:
<http://www.bookglow.net/10-books-past-present-help-define-climate-fiction/>

CliFi/Climate Fiction: Example



Read the short text passage and answer the following questions:

- Which topics that are relevant for the EFL classroom are being discussed here?
- Which competence areas might be fostered with this text?

rich people rigged ID chips so that Help went to the Wall instead of them. You heard rumors about medical exemptions, exemptions for extra education. No one ever admitted to not going on the Wall, but we all suspected that there were rich and powerful people who got out of it.

He stopped clapping. You could tell that he could tell that this was going badly, and also that he knew he mustn't show that he knew it. His manner changed and became more brisk. He let some of his sense of his own power show.

"Unfortunately, being a Defender isn't all a matter of praise and compliments. However deserved they might be! And we have some new intelligence. Information with a direct bearing on your"—and it was very interesting the way he said this next word, because you caught a glimpse of something cold and dark in him, just for that tiny moment, a small window into what he really thought of us, and the distance between his life and ours—"duties." Our duties. Yes, OK, our duties, our long nights in the cold and dark, twelve hours at a time spent both bored shitless and in fear of our lives. That was what, in his eyes, we were for. That was our use, our purpose.

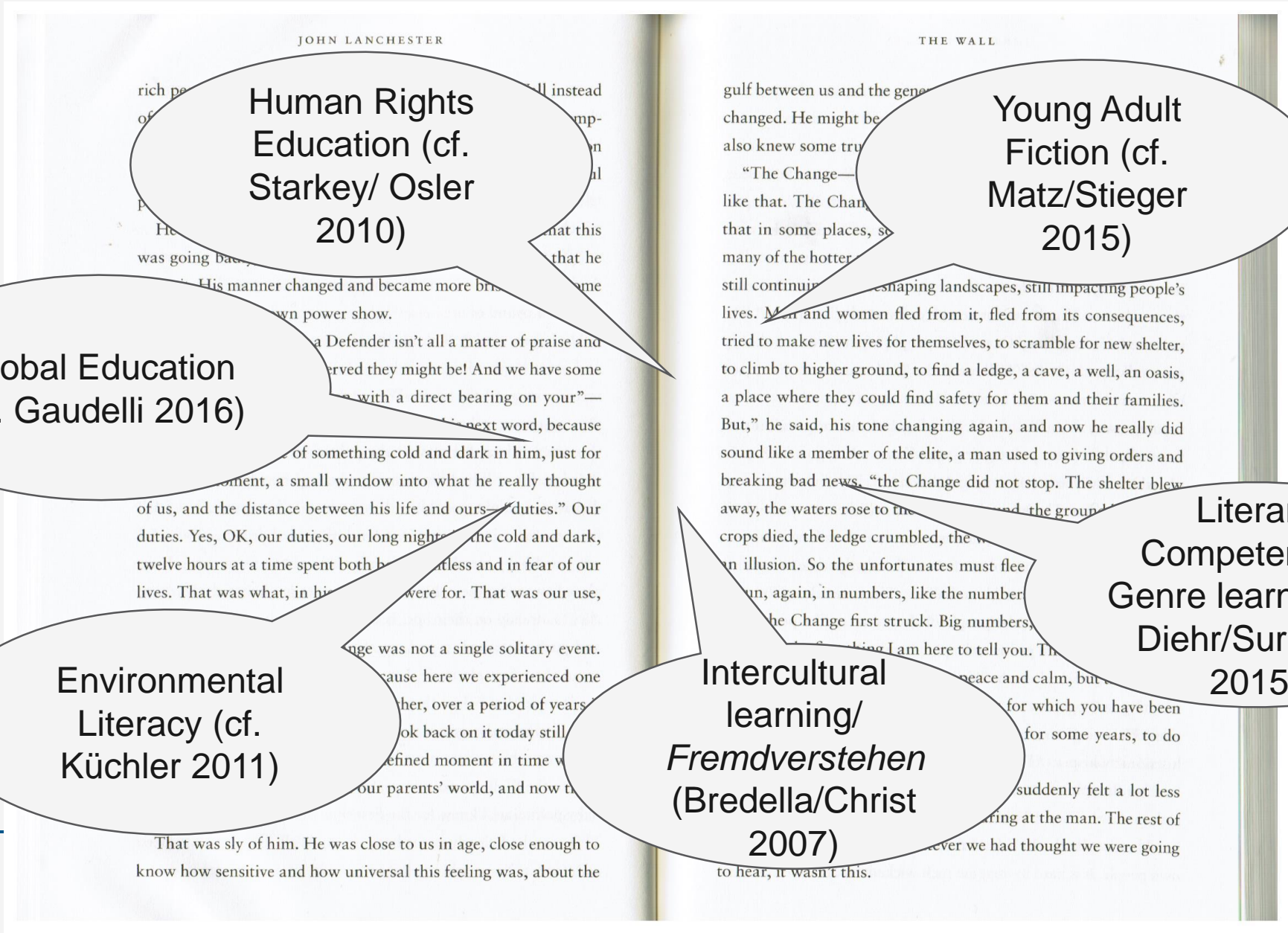
"As you all know, the Change was not a single solitary event. We speak of it in that manner because here we experienced one particular shift, of sea level and weather, over a period of years it is true, but it felt then and when we look back on it today still feels like an incident that happened, a defined moment in time with a before and an after. There was our parents' world, and now there is our world."

That was sly of him. He was close to us in age, close enough to know how sensitive and how universal this feeling was, about the

gulf between us and the generation before. The energy in the room changed. He might be every bad thing we knew him to be, but he also knew some truths.

"The Change—before and after. Elsewhere, though, it was not like that. The Change was not an event but a process, a process that in some places, some unlucky places, has not stopped. In many of the hotter places of the world, in particular, the Change is still continuing, still reshaping landscapes, still impacting people's lives. Men and women fled from it, fled from its consequences, tried to make new lives for themselves, to scramble for new shelter, to climb to higher ground, to find a ledge, a cave, a well, an oasis, a place where they could find safety for them and their families. But," he said, his tone changing again, and now he really did sound like a member of the elite, a man used to giving orders and breaking bad news, "the Change did not stop. The shelter blew away, the waters rose to the higher ground, the ground baked, the crops died, the ledge crumbled, the well dried up. The safety was an illusion. So the unfortunates must flee again, and they have begun, again, in numbers, like the numbers from many years ago when the Change first struck. Big numbers, dangerous numbers. So that is the first thing I am here to tell you. The Others are coming. We have had years of relative peace and calm, but that time is now over. You will be busy. The things for which you have been training: you are likely, more likely than for some years, to do them for real."

Now this really did count as news. I suddenly felt a lot less drunk. Hifa was sitting up straight staring at the man. The rest of the companies were too. Whatever we had thought we were going to hear, it wasn't this.



Human Rights
Education (cf.
Starkey/ Osler
2010)

Global Education
(cf. Gaudelli 2016)

Environmental
Literacy (cf.
Küchler 2011)

Intercultural
learning/
Fremdverstehen
(Bredella/Christ
2007)

Young Adult
Fiction (cf.
Matz/Stieger
2015)

Literary
Competences/
Genre learning (cf.
Diehr/Surkamp
2015)

Instapoetry (cf. Penke 2019)

From: @perry.poetry, https://www.instagram.com/p/Bytr_3xBVff/

A specific form of poetry that is published on Instagram

Three main features:

- Brevity
- Simple language
- Poem = text + image

Even when I'm lost
even if it hurts
even when I'm numb,
still,
I will love.

perry poetry



- Easy-access materials
- ‘short and simple’: texts for single lessons
- Large amount of relevant topics (relationships/friendship, living as a teenager, self-worth, mental health etc.)
- ‘authentic’ communication: written by young people for young people
- Interactive: from author/reader to wreader (cf. Landow 1997) → communicative response (comment, post, picture etc.)

From: @ladybookmad, <https://www.instagram.com/p/CEKdOy9pZqS/>



amanda lovelace
@ladybookmad



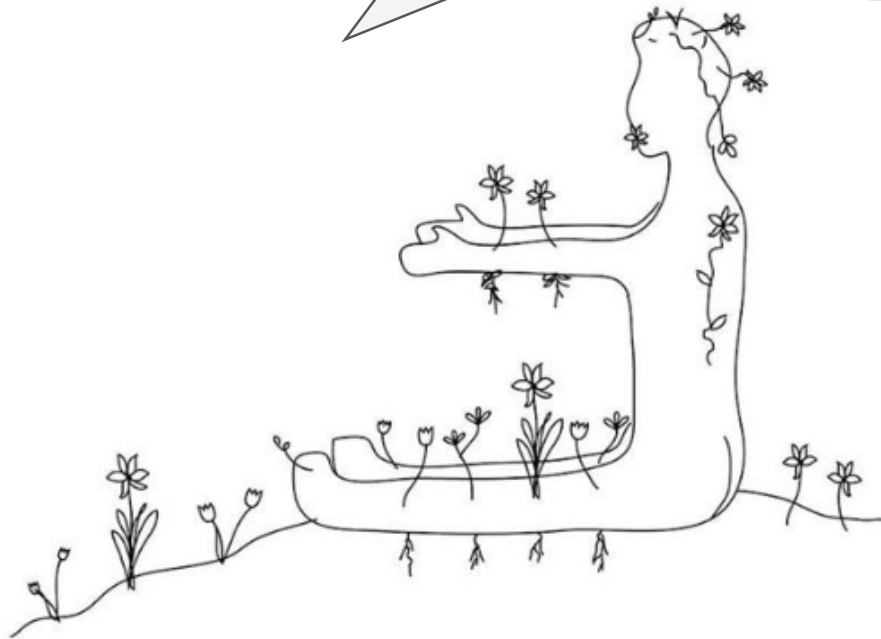
some days,
your body will feel like a cage.
on those days,
lace flowers through the bars.

it is a blessing
to be the color of earth
do you know how often
flowers confuse me for home

- rupi kaur

On your own:

- Read the poem
- In what kind of lesson sequence could you use this?
- Think about **one** pre-while- **or** post-reading task you might use



From:
@rupikaur_, <https://www.instagram.com/p/CFGZ13rh-Cr/>

rupikaur_ 🌸🌺🌻 page 227 from
#thesunandherflowers

Wo.

terrik227 My first memory of having someone use my race against me was when I was in grade 4, my friend and I went to join some other children playing at lunch at school and they were going to play "house" so their leader was giving out roles to everyone. She was in grade 3 and had never spoken to me before, when she got to me in the role lineup she pointed at said I "could play the ground since I was the same colour"

I've never ever forgotten that



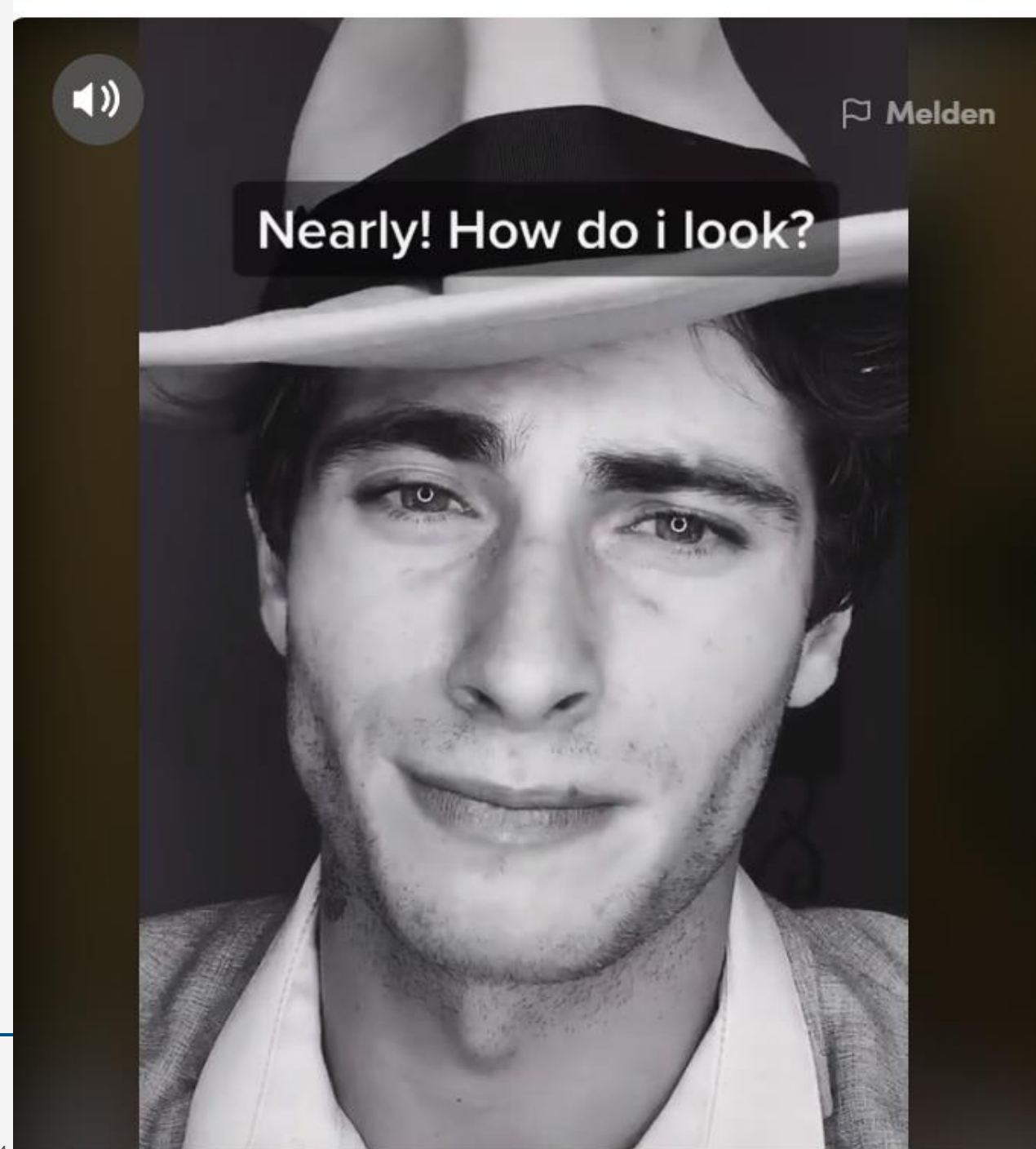
Gefällt 171.214 Mal

14. SEPTEMBER

TikTok and Performance

#actingchallenge:

- Short clips on TikTok
- Duet function: lines on screen to be spoken by a second person



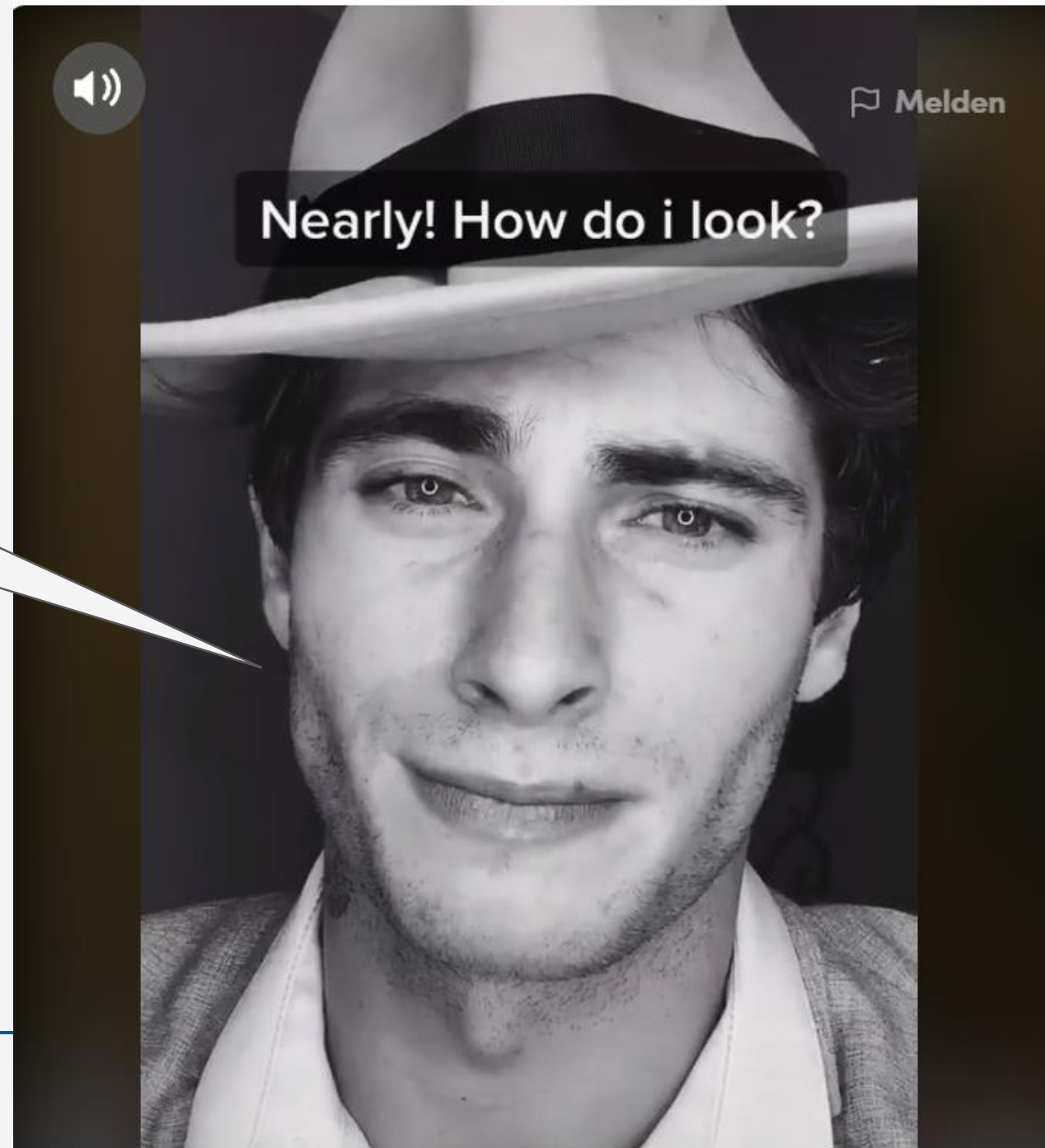


WWU **TikTok and** **Dance**

Your Thoughts?

Didactic Implications:

- Digital roleplay
- Combination of reading and speaking
- Language awareness: experimenting with intonation, pitch, accent etc.



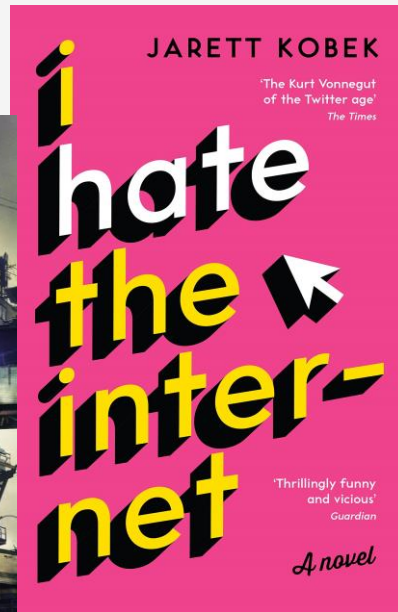
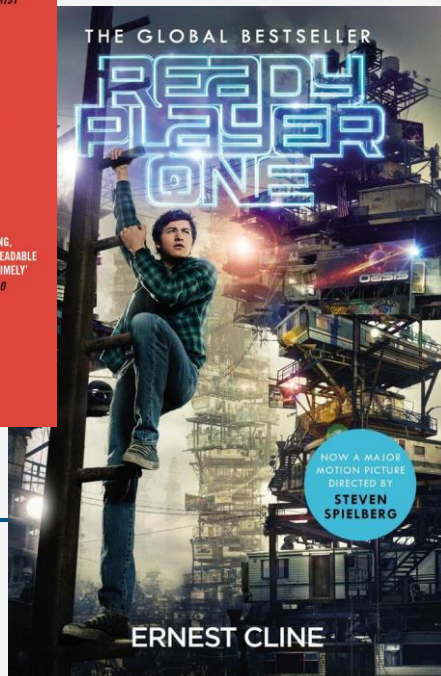
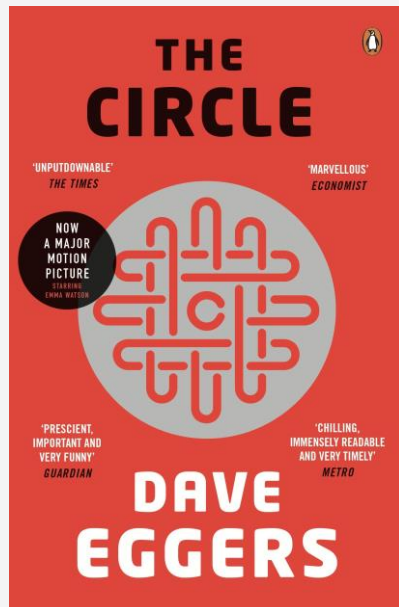
Even More Texts



Fictions of the Internet (cf. Weigel-Heller 2018)

Novels dealing with issues of the internet and digital culture...

...directly



...indirectly



Micro Flash Fiction 
@MicroFlashFic

When the world became too chaotic, Alec built a new one with model trains. He wrote stories for the people living in his town. Those stories eventually grew into conflicts that tore Train Town to pieces. Anything he built would fall apart because he brought the world in with him.

[Tweet übersetzen](#)

5:45 vorm. · 20. Sep. 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

& EMMETT RENSIN

From:

@microflashfic, <https://twitter.com/MicroFlashFic/status/1307526148604256257>



'The classics are so last century'
GUARDIAN

Videos in which a poem is read to an animation/ word collage on screen (often accompanied by music)



From:
<https://www.pinterest.de/pin/118078821452491077/>



From:
<https://www.robstuart.co.uk/kinetic-poems?lightbox=dataitem-iuzmim9v>

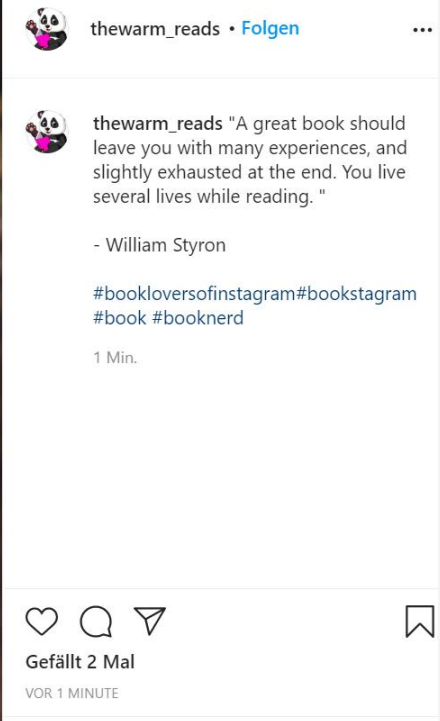


🤖 4 books in 1 week & Forest Adventures 🍂 / Reading Vlog #12

9.353 Aufrufe • 27.09.2020

👍 933 🗨️ 0 ➡️ TEILEN ⚙️ SPEICHERN ⋮

From:
The Book Leo (2020), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSW_6qROiMA



Thank You for Your Attention!

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