

Worksheet 1: Summary

Arbeitsblatt 1 zum Buch "Pocket Guide: Texte Schreiben im Englisch-Abitur"



1. Warm up: Put two commas into this sentence and add the correct preposition after "excerpt":

In the excerpt _____ the article "In our times of division 'To Kill a Mockingbird' offers lessons in empathy" written by Michael Gerson and published in the Washington Post on 2 November 2016 the author praises the novel's value and Harper Lee's insightful skills.

2. Use words from the box to complete the table with synonyms:

to contemplate, to illustrate sth, to consider, to assert (that), to underscore (that), to expound (on sth), to maintain, to conceive (of sth as), to argue (that), to elaborate (on sth)

to claim	to explain	to stress	to think

3. Complete the table with words from the box. (Say whether each linking word is used to add another point or to highlight a contrast, or if it means "because of".)

Furthermore,... / while / Moreover,... / since / In contrast to ..., / due to / as / Additionally,... / despite

add a new point	show a contrast	give a reason

4. Put in the correct prepositions:

- (a) According _____ the author,...
- (b) _____ the author's view,...
- (c) _____ the author's perspective,...
- (d) _____ the author's opinion,...

5. Complete the summary with the words from the box. (This is a sample answer for the LK Abitur task in Hessen from 2019. The task simply said: “Summarize the texts. (Material 1 + 2)”)

According to, concedes, concentrates on, despite, due to, Firstly, Finally, from, In his view, juxtapose, points out, praises, Secondly, While

In the excerpt _____ the article “In our times of division ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ offers lessons in empathy”, written by Michael Gerson and published in the Washington Post on 2 Nov 2016, the author _____ the novel’s value and Harper Lee’s insightful skills.

Gerson _____ three central aspects when lauding the novel:

_____, he _____ that “To Kill a Mockingbird” – _____ its author’s secluded life – has exerted an influence of great magnitude, especially with regard to its role during the civil rights movement. _____

Gerson, it essentially served as a vindication of the movement and was particularly influential among the white population.

_____, the author clarifies that “To Kill a Mockingbird” can by no means be regarded as children’s literature as it deals with serious, and perhaps unpalatable, issues.

_____, the novel’s narrative perspective must not be confused with its target group.

_____, the author sheds light on Harper Lee’s view of humankind.

_____ her characters can be inherently evil, Gerson underlines that her characters have the ability to change for the better. Thus, the novel generally views people in a positive light, especially as Scout changes her verdict of some of the characters. While Gerson lauds “To Kill a Mockingbird”, King claims that the novel’s literary merit is questionable. In his article “Mockingbird hits false note”, which was published in *The Australian* in 2010, he argues that the book’s narrative voice – it is told from a child’s perspective – cannot be reconciled with the harsh realities of racism in America.

While he _____ that “To Kill a Mockingbird” has significantly impacted the civil rights movement, the novel is dwarfed in comparison with famous Afro-American writers. This, according to King, is mainly _____ the simplistic treatment of the black community. Moreover, King disapproves of the invisibility of blacks in the novel. Scout’s perception, in his view, focuses on the Finches, and makes the novel a children’s book. Thus, the two texts _____ two differing perceptions of the novel.