

► **1. Outline what makes the situation for Kayerts and Carlier so critical. Keep to the given excerpt.**

**Tip:** Der Operator bei dieser Aufgabe lautet "outline". Gehe also nicht zu genau auf die einzelnen Punkte ein, sondern fasse dich so kurz wie möglich.

The situation of Kayerts and Carlier is critical for many reasons.

A very important one is the fact that the time they have to spend on the outpost does not pass very quickly. This impression is also increased by Kayerts' and Carlier's homesickness ("They had heard nothing from home for eight months.", Text, line 21f.).

Another fact that leads to their aggressiveness is that they have nothing to eat but rice and coffee. And they cannot buy anything else because "stores were running short" (Text, line 7) and "the steamer was late" (Text, line 6).

Furthermore, both of them suffer from health problems: Kayerts' legs are swollen, he is not even able to walk and Carlier has fever.

In addition, nothing of what they do to make their lives a little happier is very successful (e.g. hunting a hippo or fishing). All those reasons make life complicated, hard and unbearable for them.

► **2. Compare how the two protagonists behave in this entire passage. Provide suitable examples from the text.**

**Tip:** Bei dieser Aufgabe musst du das Verhalten der beiden Protagonisten vergleichen. Hierfür kannst du zum Beispiel im Text mit zwei verschiedenen Farben arbeiten. Wichtig ist jedoch, dass du auf gar keinen Fall Punkte miteinbeziehst, die außerhalb der Textstelle vorkommen.

The text passage reveals some big differences between the behaviour of the two protagonists.

In the face of their difficult situation, Kayerts and Carlier begin to react in completely different ways. Kayerts becomes passive, callous and even apathetic ("Kayerts mooned about silently; spent hours looking at the portrait of his Melie", Text, line 14) whereas Carlier becomes more and more aggressive during that text passage ("Carlier had a fit of rage", Text, line 12).

Nevertheless, the two of them agree on certain aspects: Both of them hate the situation they find themselves in ("[they] cursed the Company, all Africa, and the day they were born.", Text, line 25f.).

The situation escalates when Carlier is tired of drinking coffee without sugar every day: He asks Kayerts to "bring out that sugar" (Text, line 34), but Kayerts just repeats "For the sick" (Text, line 36). Having discussed for a little while, Carlier insults Kayerts ("[...] You stingy old slave-dealer.", Text, line 39). In spite of Carlier's extremely rude and impolite behaviour towards his chief, Kayerts is still calm, even-tempered and polite ("I forbid you to speak to me in that way.", Text, line 48). But Carlier asks for trouble and does not apologize to Kayerts. He becomes even more aggressive than before and in the end, he even uses physical violence ("Carlier swung a stool. [...] Take that, he howled", Text, line 54f.).