

### III. Composition

► 1. “(Colonialism) gave (African people) a language with which to talk to one another. If it failed to give them a song, it at least gave them a tongue, for sighing.”

Comment on this statement by Chinua Achebe (1964).

**Tipp:**

Du kennst Chinua Achebe als den Autor der Kurzgeschichte *Dead Men’s Path*.

Formuliere im ersten Teil die Aussage des Statements in deinen eigenen Worten. Achebe spricht sehr bildlich und benutzt wichtige Metaphern wie “language,” “song” und “tongue.” Achte bei deiner Interpretation dieser Metaphern darauf, dass Achebe ein renommierter Autor ist und seine Kurzgeschichten auch auf Englisch verfasst.

Most colonial powers introduced their own language as the official language in their colonies. So, many African people had to learn European languages such as English or French and thus were able to communicate to one another even if their original mother tongues were different. In this way, Colonialism gave a kind of common “language” to the African people.

This common language also worked as a “tongue” for the African people, that means it offered the possibility to communicate to the rest of the world and to articulate Africa’s needs and feelings.

However, this communication with the world rather consists in “sighing” than in singing: Africa rather needs its “tongue” to tell its problems and to ask for help. It does not have a “song,” that means Africa is not yet happy with their situation and still has many problems which must be solved.

**Tipp:**

Nun hast du das Statement interpretiert und so die Meinung des Autors Chinua Achebe dargestellt. Im weiteren Teil folgt nun dein persönlicher Kommentar zu diesem Statement: Stimmt du mit der Aussage des Autors überein und wenn ja, warum? Oder bist du anderer Meinung und wenn ja, warum?

Dieser Lösungsvorschlag ist **eine** Möglichkeit eines Kommentars.

In my opinion, Achebe is right in many respects. Africa’s natural resources were exploited by the colonial powers and the African people were even kept and sold as slaves. So, Africa indeed has reason enough for “sighing.”

Today, however, one can also observe several positive consequences: the medical situation has improved and children can go to schools and universities. Thus, they are given the chance to get a good education and to find a job.

In addition, this common language gave way to the development of African literature. This can also be considered an enrichment.

Nevertheless, Africa still has lots of problems such as hunger and Aids and needs our support so that one day, the African people are given a “song.”

► **2. Miss Rehana (*Good Advice is Rarer than Rubies*) gets what she wants. However, on her return to Lahore she writes a letter to the local authorities, complaining about the way the 'advice giver' treats the Tuesday women. Write her letter.**

**Tipp:**

Du kannst im ersten Schritt die Short Story rekapitulieren und die Punkte notieren, die du in deinem Brief aufgreifen willst. Denke dabei daran, dass der Brief aus der Sicht Miss Rehana's geschrieben wird. Sie kann nur das wissen, was sie selbst erlebt hat! Die Gedankenwelt des advice givers, die im Text auch zur Sprache kommt, ist für sie nicht zugänglich.

Miss Rehana

- wants to go to Bradford in order to meet her husband.
- does not intend to lie and can legally travel to England
- meets the advice giver near the British Consulate

The advice giver

- wants to see her documents
- tells her horrible stories about how she is treated in the Consulate. He says that
  - she will be asked very personal questions
  - her husband in England will be asked the same questions
  - if the answers do not coincide a hundred per cent, she will not be allowed to go to London
  - all the men working inside assume that she is lying
- tries to trick her and to sell her a forged British passport to avoid the "horrible situation" in the Consulate

**Tipp:**

Vergiss nicht, dass dein Text ein **Brief** an die “local authorities” in Lahore sein soll. Es sind also noch einige **formale Kriterien** zu beachten, z.B. die **Begrüßungsformel** und die **Schlussformel**. Bei der Begrüßungsformel kannst du davon ausgehen, dass es sich bei den Angestellten der “local authorities” ausschließlich um Männer handelt.

Was den Inhalt des Briefes angeht, so kannst du deine Stichworte von oben benutzen:

- Miss Rehana stellt sich kurz vor und erklärt, weshalb sie den Brief schreibt
- Sie führt aus, wie und warum sie mit dem ‘advice giver’ in Kontakt gekommen ist
- Sie beschreibt, wie sie behandelt wurde

Denke daran, dass Miss Rehana sich **beschwert**. Entsprechend wird auch der **Tonfall** des Briefes sein. Versuche also, die **Stimmung** und die **Empörung** Miss Rehanas durch stilistische Mittel auszudrücken.

Überlege auch, was Miss Rehana mit diesem Brief **bezwecken** will: Möchte sie, dass der “advice giver” verhaftet oder bestraft wird? Oder möchte sie, dass den Tuesday Women im Konsulat anders begegnet wird?

Um den Brief persönlicher zu gestalten, kannst du z.B. auch Miss Rehanas Fehler bei der Angabe ihres Heimatortes (“Bradford, London”) oder ihre Anrede des ‘advice givers’ (“advice wallah”) reproduzieren und so ihren Stil imitieren.

*Hinweis:* Es ist deine Entscheidung, ob du Miss Rehana sagen lässt, dass sie alle Fragen absichtlich falsch beantwortet hat, oder ob du diesen Teil auslässt. Schließlich ist es doch eine sehr persönliche Entscheidung von ihr, nicht nach England zu fahren, die sie in einem offiziellen Brief an die “local authorities” vielleicht nicht mitteilt.

Dear Sirs,

I am Miss Rehana, fiancée of Mustafa Dar of Bradford, London. I am writing to complain about a so-called “advice-wallah” who treats the Consulate’s Tuesday Women really badly.

Last Tuesday, I went to the British Consulate in order to get my visa to Britain where I wanted to marry my fiancé. When I was waiting for the Consulate’s gates to open, an old man approached me and offered me his advice. I refused at first, but he talked me into accepting his advice for free.

After examining my application form, he told me horrible stories about how I would be treated inside the Consulate. He said that I would be asked very personal questions and that the sahibs were convinced that I was lying! His words frightened me and made me really upset!

But this wasn’t the worst of it: he offered me a forged British passport and urged me to take it! Of course, I refused because I do not want to commit a crime. I left and went into the Consulate.

I expected that he had invented these stories in order to make me buy this forged passport but unfortunately I had to find out that he was perfectly right.

I think that you should know about the existence of such an ‘advice wallah.’ Obviously, many Tuesday Women are afraid of going to the Consulate and might then become criminals accepting a forged passport.

Maybe the ‘advice wallah’ would go away if we were treated differently in the Consulate.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Rehana

► 3. Give a brief description of the cartoon “Create Your Obama” and comment on it.

**Tipp:**

Beginne deine Cartoonbeschreibung mit einem **einleitenden Satz**, in dem du das Problem oder den Sachverhalt, den der Cartoon illustriert, kurz beschreibst und zusammenfasst.

The cartoon “Create your Obama” deals with the numerous positive attitudes, hopes and characteristics which were associated with Obama before he was elected President.

**Tipp:**

Nun folgt der **beschreibende Teil**. Beschreibe, was du im Cartoon sehen kannst. Achtung: Eine Interpretation des Cartoons folgt erst im dritten Teil der Cartoonbeschreibung.

In the center of the cartoon, you can see a drawing of Barack Obama who is presented as a tall and muscular man. On either side of him, there are the costumes of superheroes: Spiderman, Superman and Batman. Above and beneath these costumes, you can find accessories such as Santa Claus's hat, Uncle Sam's hat, a crown and the halo of a saint. All these items can be cut out so that Obama can be “dressed.” Besides the paintings, the cartoon contains two writings: “New” in the top right corner and “Create your Obama” at the bottom.

**Tipp:**

Im letzten Teil der Cartoonbeschreibung ist deine **Interpretation** der dargestellten Situation gefragt.

Spiderman, Superman and Batman are superheroes who try to defeat the evil and who can use special or supernatural power. Cartoonist Rainer Ehrt puts them side by side with Obama who, in consequence, seems like a “super president”.

In fact, Obama was presented as the man who could provide solutions to almost every problem, for example the economic crisis, the problem of climate change or the war in Iraq. Thus, the American people had great hopes for their future and saw Obama as a saint (the halo), a strong man (the crown) or even as the bringer of equality and liberty for everybody (the crown of the statue of liberty).

The cartoonist wants to warn against these exaggerated hopes. Obama is still a man and not a superhero and even he will not be able to solve all the problems on his own.