

Brief synopsis of the book 'Fundbüro' by Siegfried Lenz

This book was first published in 2003. It is set in the 1990s and focuses on the life of 24-year-old Henry Neff, who has no career ambitions or aims in life, other than to live and let live. He finds his ideal work place in the lost-and-found office of his local train station, where he is constantly amazed by what people lose. Henry strikes up a friendship with Fedor Lagutin, a visiting academic at the local university. He seems perfectly happy until job cuts at the station and incidents of violence and xenophobia force Henry to re-assess his outlook on life.

	Description of activity and suggested uses	Skills covered
Activity 1	<p>Students read an extract from the book, which depicts the bikers' attack on the postman. After reading the chapter, students complete the mind-map that has been started for them with information from the text. They will then use the mind-map as a basis for a newspaper article about the attack.</p> <p>Students can do this activity online and print out their article or use the printable resource instead to work offline.</p> <p>As an extension activity more able students could select another scene and make up their own set of statements.</p>	<p>Students use their reading and writing skills while analysing this important chapter in the book. They can include their own analysis and evaluation in their article, e.g. by commenting on possible motives for the attackers, but also for the people who helped.</p>
Activity 2	<p>For this exercise, students use their knowledge of the whole book to pick correct statements in multiple choice tasks.</p> <p>This would be a good revision task, which could be done straight after reading the book and again during exam preparation. It tests detailed knowledge of characters and plot.</p>	<p>Students use their reading skills, expand their vocabulary and revise the content of the book.</p>
Activity 3	<p>This is also a revision task, which asks students to put 10 scenes from the book into chronological order. It lends itself to be done as an individual task, but students could also work in pairs, especially if they work offline.</p>	<p>The students develop their reading skills and expand their vocabulary. If working in pairs, they will also develop collaborative skills by discussing the plot the book.</p>