

Abit **MEHR
ERFAHREN**

Englisch

Abi Niedersachsen

Das musst du können:

STARK

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Vorwort

Liebe Schülerinnen und Schüler,

dieses handliche Skript bietet Ihnen umfassende Informationen zu allen **verbindlichen Materialien** (Pflichtlektüren und -filmen), die Sie für die **Abiturprüfung 2025** im Fach Englisch kennen müssen.

Dank der knappen, übersichtlichen Darstellung eignet es sich besonders zur Auffrischung und Wiederholung des Prüfungsstoffs kurz vor dem Abitur:

- Anhand der Kennzeichnung im Inhaltsverzeichnis können Sie ersehen, welche Materialien für das **grundlegende** oder **erhöhte Anforderungsniveau** verbindlich sind und welche nur an **Beruflichen** bzw. nur an **Allgemeinbildenden Gymnasien** zu behandeln sind.
- Zu jedem Werk finden Sie die wichtigsten **Fakten**, eine **Zusammenfassung der Handlung** und eine Übersicht über die zentralen **Figuren**.
- Unter „Themes and interpretation“ können Sie **Interpretationsansätze** zu den Werken nachlesen, die Ihnen bei der Bearbeitung von möglichen Abituraufgaben helfen können. In der Textaufgabe wird unter Umständen von Ihnen verlangt, inhaltliche Aspekte aus dem Prüfungstext (den Sie im Abitur erstmals zu Gesicht bekommen) zu den verpflichtenden Materialien (die Sie aus dem Unterricht kennen) in Bezug zu setzen. Die in diesem Skript behandelten Themen orientieren sich an den vom Niedersächsischen Kultusministerium festgelegten „verbindlichen Unterrichtsaspekten“ und sind so für die Abiturprüfung besonders relevant (siehe Übersicht auf der folgenden Seite).
- Zahlreiche **Schaubilder** und **Beispiele** helfen Ihnen, sich das Gelernte besser einzuprägen.

Viel Erfolg beim Lernen mit diesem Skript und im Abitur!

2 “Fatima, the Biloquist: A Transformation Story”

2.1 Key facts

- **author:** Nafissa Thompson-Spires (b. 1983 in San Diego), African American writer
- **year of publication:** 2018
- **genre:** short story
- **setting:** Greater Los Angeles area, California
- **narrative perspective:** third-person narration (mainly Fatima’s viewpoint, but omniscient in parts)
- **content:** Fatima feels torn between her Black identity and her White surroundings and tries to become “more Black” with the help of her friend Violet.
- **explanation of title:** It refers to a character from a novel by Fatima’s favourite author, Charles Brockden Brown (1771–1810), *Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist*. Carwin discovers his biloquial talent, meaning that he is able to speak in different voices. This is what Fatima also tries to achieve by codeswitching between her “brown top lip” and her “pink lower lip”.
- **part of:** *Heads of the Colored People* (cf. p. 19)

Background information

wigger	word coined from “White” or “wannabe” and “nigger”, denoting sb White who tries to blend in with Black culture, used pejoratively
albinism	a genetic condition which leads to a lack of melanin in the body and results in fair hair, skin and eyes
Patti Mayonnaise	a main character in the American animated TV series <i>Doug</i> : Patti has dark skin and wavy blonde hair

2.2 Plot

- Fatima is one of only two Black girls at a predominantly White school.
- She befriends Violet, an African American girl with albinism, at a shopping mall.

- Violet thinks that Fatima, though Black, is a totally White girl and Fatima hopes that Violet can teach her how to be really Black.
- Through Violet’s “teachings”, Fatima becomes more self-confident.
- She has her first date with Rolf, who is White and in her history class.
- Fatima is happy with Rolf, but sometimes feels uncomfortable due to his implicit racism.
- Rolf and Fatima meet Violet and her boyfriend Mike by chance. Violet is angry that Fatima has kept Rolf a secret.
- Their friendship breaks up when Rolf jokingly calls Violet “Patti Mayonnaise”, a discriminatory nickname Violet hates.

Black English	
dangfoine, hella foine, bout it bout it	excessively hot, extremely attractive, awesome, really cool
fisshow	for sure
nigga, gangsta	<i>in this story: used as terms of endearment</i>
ace boon coon	a very close friend
FUBU (“foo-boo”)	<i>short for “for us, by us”, tradename for American hip-hop clothing</i>

Fatima



Black identity

- met with prejudice due to the colour of her skin
- Fatima’s (extended) family
- her AME (African Methodist Episcopal) church
- friendship with Violet

White life

- Fatima’s parents’ high-paying jobs and their life in the White neighbourhood of Upland
- Fatima’s cultural interests (Charles Brockden Brown, *My Fair Lady*, etc.)
- Fatima’s high school
- relationship with Rolf

things ...”) and criticises her for her self-righteousness (“you’ve fucked up too Cleo”)

- **caring:** worries about Cleo’s safety when she keeps on posting provocative tweets, tries to protect her and bring her to her senses

4 Themes and interpretation

Ethnic diversity

The play addresses various forms of racism – both by means of INCOGNEGRO’s tweets about the “seven methods of killing Kylie Jenner” and through the discussions and experiences of the two characters Cleo and Kara in real life.

The “seven methods” and their reference to racial oppression	
#1 Death by poison	
Kylie admired for her full lips (thanks to lip fillers; possibly Botox, a poison)	vs. unequal beauty standards: Black people being called “ugly” for their full lips
#2 Death by shooting	
Kylie’s photo shootings	vs. police shootings of Black people
#3 Death by drowning	
Kylie swimming in wealth	vs. refugees drowning in the sea
#4 Death by skinning	
Cleo’s wish to wear Kylie’s White skin as a costume for a day	vs. racist tradition of “Blackfacing”
#5 Death by immolation	
Kylie being “lit” while taking selfies; use of fire emojis	vs. Black people literally being lit (burned alive during lynchings)
#6 Death by disgrace	
Kylie admired for her looks	vs. Black people historically being put on display as exotic “freaks”; Black children made to feel ugly
#7 Death by displacement	
Kylie known and admired all over the world, gaining fame, recognition and wealth	vs. Saartjie dragged from her home and put on display in Europe; died penniless; largely forgotten

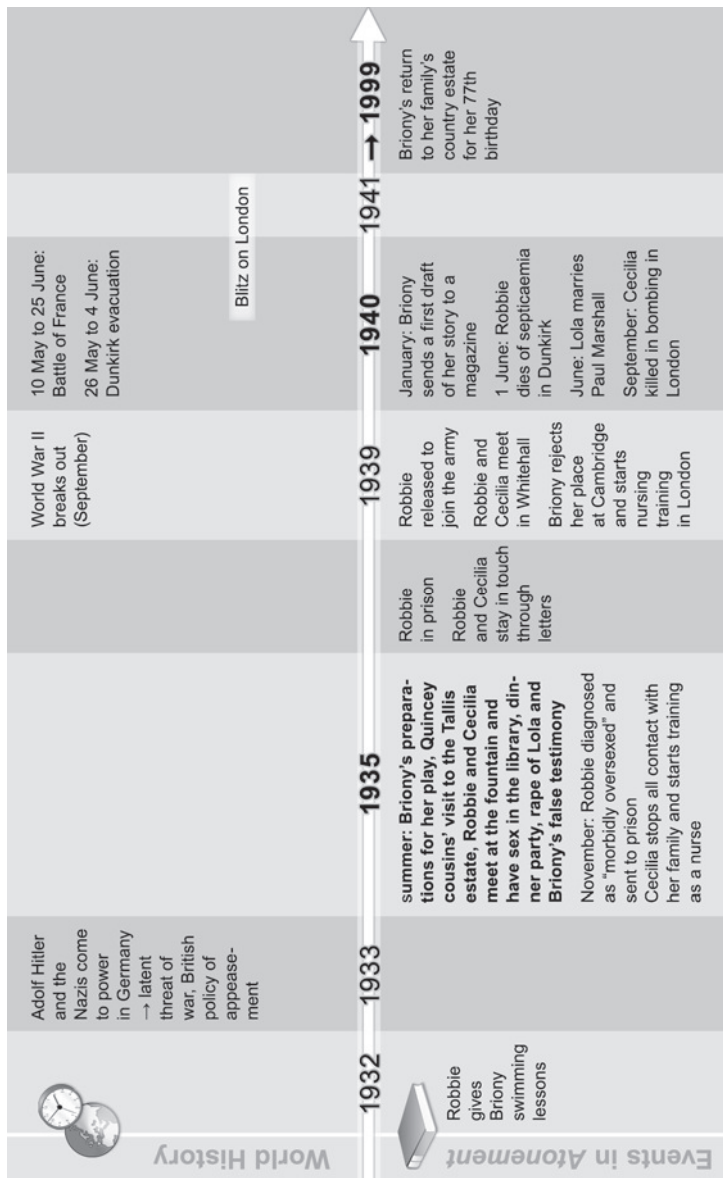
In particular, the following topics are taken up repeatedly in the play:

- **dehumanisation and exploitation of the Black female body:** Black women were often bullied and discriminated against (and still are); the Black South African woman Saartjie, for example, was exhibited as “freak” and sexually exploited.
- **cultural appropriation:** Blackness and Black aesthetics are being appropriated by White models and social media influencers (e.g. the Kardashian-Jenner family) for commercial reasons; Kylie Jenner’s full lips (due to lip fillers), for instance, are considered fashionable, but on a Black woman they are considered “ugly”.
- **colourism:** Cleo thinks that light-skinned Black people like Kara are considered more beautiful and are less affected by racism than darker-skinned Black people; she accuses Kara of “suffering from lightie-itis” (not seeing her alleged privilege as a light-skinned Black person).
- **intersectionality of identity categories** (i.e. the concept that multiple categories, such as race, gender and sexual identity, interact to create unique forms of oppression and/or privilege), for example:
 - Kara is discriminated against for being Black, a woman and queer (e.g. keeps her sexual identity secret for a long time).
 - Cleo is affected by both racism and sexism (e.g. sexual harassment and racial discrimination during “#wiggate”).

The influence of social media on personal life and public opinion

Social media play an essential role in *seven methods of killing kylie jenner*, particularly Twitter. Today, millions of people from all walks of life have accounts on social media platforms to post about whatever they are interested in and whatever they are thinking or doing. Varying numbers of followers read the shared news and voice their reactions/opinions with retweets, likes, emojis, GIFs and the like. Many influencers and celebrities like Kylie Jenner boast of millions of followers.

On the one hand, social media are a great way for people to communicate with each other, share experiences, network and engage in social activism. When they first appeared, social media were hailed as promoting democracy by providing a platform for the **free exchange of opinions**. However, over time, the undisputed advantages of social



3 Characters

Briony Tallis

- born in 1922
- youngest of the three Tallis children, **big age difference** between her and her siblings
- **talented:** writes her first story at age eleven, has a powerful imagination
- **attention-seeking:** likes to be admired and the centre of attention
- **controlling:** likes order and wants everything to be as she planned
- **self-important:** focus on her stories overwhelms her sense of reality (even as an adult, thinks that a fictional happy ending could improve reality)
- **precocious**, but also **naïve** and **childlike:** wants to be an adult at age 13, but misinterprets situations due to her inexperience
- **strong moral conscience:** lifelong regret due to her false testimony and its consequences, never forgives herself
- at age 77, renowned **writer**, **widow** and **terminally ill** with vascular dementia

Cecilia Tallis

- ten years older than Briony, two years younger than Leon
- **caring** towards Briony, **close** relationship with Leon
- **listless, chaotic, not overtly ambitious:** only average marks in her literature studies, does not really know what to expect of her future
- **influenced by her gender and social class:** partly bored, partly overwhelmed by her role in an upper-class household, sexually inexperienced
- **sometimes arrogant:** probably due to uncertainty (about her future, her feelings towards Robbie, etc.)
- **passionately in love and unwaveringly loyal:** believes in Robbie's innocence, breaks away from her family after his arrest and never forgives them their part in it, writes letters to Robbie throughout his imprisonment and his deployment to France



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