

Brief synopsis of the film

This film (released in 2013) is based on Alina Bronsky's book by the same name (2008). It is the story of 17-year-old Sascha, a bright young woman, who lives in an area of high-risers on the outskirts of Stuttgart, which is dominated by problems of social deprivation. Sascha's dreams are to take revenge on her stepfather for killing her mother and to write a book about her mother. When she meets Volker and his son Felix, a whole new world of middle-class living opens up to her. We follow Sascha, as she confronts her demons and tries to follow her dreams and ambitions.

This is a coming-of-age story which covers topics such as family, friendship, grief, anger, the life of migrants and social divides in Germany. As such, it fits in naturally with the AS topic 'Being a young person in German-speaking society' and prepares students for the A2 topic 'Diversity and difference' (although this is not the main focus of this film).

	Description of activity and suggested uses	Skills covered
Activity 1	<p>This activity is a matching activity. Students match up key words or expressions to the video clips containing important themes of the film. However, there is an added challenge as this activity has a time limit.</p> <p>For the purposes of brevity and practical reasons the on-screen themes comprise only a small number of words. It is vital therefore to exploit this exercise fully, by having a class discussion once completed "on screen". Such discussion could take a theme and students have to justify why they chose it and why the director included it.</p>	<p>Students will of course use reading comprehension skills and develop their analytical skills while matching themes/ subthemes to the clips.</p>

<p>Activity 2</p>	<p>This is an activity designed to practise translation skills (German into English). The exercise is to translate the slightly adapted but original film description on the DVD cover. The description contains key thematic content.</p> <p>Students can work individually or in pairs and then can compare their completed versions to show that in translation there are often different possible versions. There is also a pop up suggested solution.</p>	<p>Students will develop their reading skills, as well as translation skills into English. It is also a useful task to expand their vocabulary specific to this film.</p>
<p>Activity 3</p>	<p>For this activity, students have to read two different film reviews on the film, with a view to writing their own. This activity develops reading and writing skills.</p> <p>Before writing their own review, teachers should prepare students carefully. Initially, that might involve reading and thoroughly understanding and analysing the two model reviews. Students could then discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of the reviews. Students should then write their own review, which they could subsequently present to the class or print to hand in for teacher feedback.</p>	<p>Another task to develop reading skills, as well as learning vocabulary that is typical for film reviews, which will help students to develop their writing skills.</p>