

## Brief synopsis of the book 'Zweier ohne' by Dirk Kurbjuweit

This book was first published in 2001. It is set in the 1990s and is about the unusual friendship between Johann and Ludwig, narrated by Ludwig when he is in his 20s. Their friendship starts at the age of 11 and ends with Ludwig's death on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday – a day after they had lost an important rowing race to their main rivals. The plot focuses on the months leading up to that race, the nature of the boys' friendship, which becomes increasingly fragile despite their promise to each other to be like twins. As Johann embarks on a secret relationship with Ludwig's sister Vera, Ludwig's behaviour becomes more and more erratic and bizarre, which ultimately ends in tragedy.

	Description of activity and suggested uses	Skills covered
<b>Activity 1</b>	Students read chapter 5 of the book, which depicts the day of the motorbike accident that kills Ludwig. 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 accident.  Students can do this activity online and print out their article or use the printable resource instead to work offline.	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 causes of the accident.
<b>Activity 2</b>	For this exercise, students use their knowledge of the whole book to pick the correct statement in each case from a set of three alternatives.  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.	Students use their reading skills, expand their vocabulary and revise the content of the book.
<b>Activity 3</b>	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.	The students develop their reading skills and expand their vocabulary. If working in pairs, they will develop their collaborative skills by discussing the plot of the book.