

OSCAR AND THE LADY IN PINK

The author Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt

Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, born in 1960 in Sainte-Foy-lès-Lyon and a fellow of philosophy, is one of the world's most read French authors. He lives in Brussels and began his career as a playwright with *Don Juan on Trial* (1991). While continuing to write for the theatre, Schmitt also wrote novels and short stories. Recently, he got behind the camera and adapted two of his works for the big screen, including *Oscar and the Lady in Pink*.



PART 1: page 1 – page 13

VOCABULARY

Translate the following words into German.

to set fire to sth (1)		to fry sth (1)	
to force sb to do sth (1)		fluffy (1)	
sissy (1)		the grown-up	
the cancer (2)		to muck sth up (2)	
the favour (2)		the bone marrow transplant	
disappointed (3)		the insult (3)	
guilty (3)		contagious (3)	
to make an effort (4)		to chuck sb out (4)	
the sell-by-date (4)		brave (5)	
the revenge (7)		the clue (7)	
gorgeous (7)		rechargeable (8)	
deaf (8)		fragile (9)	
the liar (10)		to weigh on sb (11)	
to paralyse sb (11)		to rot (11)	
the courage (12)		the patience (12)	
the obstacle (12)		applicable (13)	

Explain the following words in English.

contagious: _____

the revenge: _____

brainwashing: _____

TEXT WORK

Answer the following questions in written form. (EA)

❶ Who's the main character? What do you get to know about him on the first pages of the novel? Describe the main character on the following lines.

❷ What kind of text is it? _____

❸ Why does Oscar think he's a bad patient ?

Discuss the following questions with your partner. (PA)

- ❶ Who is Granny Rose ? And in what kind of way does she talk to Oscar ?
- ❷ The sick children have quite funny nicknames. In terms of their names – what do you think they could suffer from? (*Bacon – Einstein – Popcorn – Egghead*)
- ❸ Why does Granny Rose tell Oscar to write to God? Do you think it's a good idea ? Do you believe in God ?
- ❹ There are some comical scenes on the first few pages – find them and mark them with a colour.
- ❺ Granny Rose says that Oscar can wish something from God every day ? What kind of things can Oscar wish for ?
- ❻ What does Oscar ask God for the first time he writes to him?

Information: Leukemia

Leukemia is a group of cancers that usually begin in the bone marrow and result in high numbers of abnormal white blood cells. These white blood cells are not fully developed and are called blasts or leukemia cells.

Symptoms may include bleeding and bruising problems, feeling tired, fever, and an increased risk of infections. These symptoms occur due to a lack of normal blood cells. Diagnosis is typically made by blood tests or bone marrow biopsy.

The exact cause of leukemia is unknown. Different kinds of leukemia are believed to have different causes. Both inherited and environmental factors are believed to be involved. People with a family history of leukemia are also at higher risk.

Treatment may involve some combination of chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, and bone marrow transplant, in addition to supportive care and palliative care as needed

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PART 2: page 14 – page 28

VOCABULARY

Translate the following words into German.

preoccupied (14)		to nick sth (15)	
the left-overs (16)		to sob (17)	
the cuddle (17)		the coward (17)	
the broom cupboard (17)		the commotion (18)	
to give in (20)		swift (21)	
to upset (21)		to get one's teeth into sth	
to be worth (22)		devastated (23)	
according to (23)		bedridden (24)	
the permission (24)		the reputation (24)	
to pull oneself together (25)		to sort sth out (26)	
to teeter (26)		to predict (27)	

Word families: Transform the following words.

to be worth	Noun :	devastated	Noun :
the permission	Verb :	to predict	Noun :

TEXT WORK

Answer the following questions in written form. (EA)

❶ Oscar is still a child and deadly ill. In which situations does he behave like a child despite his bad disease?

Take notes.

② Which scenes did you find amusing? Colour them.

③ How does Oscar react when he learns that he's going to die?

④ What symptoms of leukemia does Oscar show?

⑤ What does Granny Rose want to teach Oscar by telling him another wrestling story?

⑥ What does Granny Rose suggest Oscar to do, besides writing to God?

⑦ What is Oscar's wish for this day?

ADDITIONAL TASK: Find a partner and compare your answers. Do you agree?

PART 3: page 29 – page 43

VOCABULARY

Translate the following words into German.

smooth (29)		the hassle (29)	
blimey (29)		to stump sb (30)	
to mess around (30)		the fairy (31)	
handsome (32)		to frighten sb (32)	
to make up one's mind (33)		to stand guard (34)	
to stream (34)		the confirmation (35)	
tempting (36)		to swallow (36)	
delighted (37)		fearless (37)	
the leaflet (37)		to manage sth (38)	
to resist sth/sb (39)		odd (39)	
to be engaged to sb (39)		to bluff (39)	
the seduction (40)		the beefcake (40)	
nasty (42)		tough (42)	
the department (42)		in stock (43)	

Word families: Transform the following words.

tempting	Noun :	delighted	Noun :
to resist	Noun :	the seduction	Verb :

Explain the following words in English.

the leaflet: _____

nasty : _____

TEXT WORK

Answer the following questions in written form. (EA)

❶ Characterise Peggy Blue. What do you get to know about her?

❷ How does Oscar treat his parents and why?

❸ Are the ghosts really ghosts or could it also be a metaphor for something else?

Information: Metaphor

A metaphor is an expression, often found in literature, that describes a person or object by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics to that person or object.

Examples : The mind is an ocean. / The city is a jungle.

The disease can be used as a metaphor for the corruption in society.

Discuss the following questions with your partner. (PA)

❶ Why is puberty so difficult according to Oscar ?

❷ What's the problem between Oscar and Popcorn? Do they find a solution?

❸ What is Oscar's wish for the day?

GRAMMAR: IF-CLAUSES

① Read the following examples and try to explain the structure of the three different if-clauses.

IF-CLAUSE 0

p.8 : « If you say *die* in hospital, no one hears it. »

p.11: «If you keep at it, he will exist completely.»

p.25: «If you don't come and see me every day, I won't write to God. »

Structure: _____

IF-CLAUSE 1

p.23 : « If I worried about what stupid people think, I wouldn't have time for what intelligent people think. »

p.28. : « I would really like it if you paid me one of those visits. »

p.50 : « If I was God, if I could change thinks, I would avoid the suffering.»

Structure: _____

IF-CLAUSE 2

p.15 : « If it had all been brains, Einstein could have been amazing. »

Structure: _____

② Read the grammar and stick it into your grammar book.

③ Solve the exercise sheets.

PART 4: page 44 – page 60

VOCABULARY

Translate the following words into German.

to torture (44)		to be amazed (45)	
to realise (45)		to boil (45)	
the skin graft (45)		to groan (45)	
to have sth in common (46)		to squeeze (46)	
the witness (47)		to argue with sb (47)	
disgusting (48)		the chapel (49)	
to bother sb (49)		the anticipation (51)	
the treat (51)		the curiosity (52)	
to sign up for sth (52)		stubborn (52)	
to pass away (52)		evil (53)	
deserted (53)		the triplets (54)	
tireless (54)		the responsibility (56)	
to wheel sb (56)		to be available (57)	
to be attentive (57)		the parents-in-law (59)	

Word families: Transform the following words.

the witness	Verb :	to sign	Noun :
deserted	Noun :	attentive	Noun :
the curiosity	Adjective :	stubborn	Noun :
available	Noun :	the responsibility	Adjective :

Explain the following words in English.

the anticipation: _____

TEXT WORK

Answer the following questions in written form. (EA)

① What happens when he's heading for 30 ? _____

② Why does Oscar fear he'll have kids with Cleopatra? _____

③ Why does the statue of God remember Oscar of himself?

④ Which two kinds of suffering are there ? Which one is worse according to you?

⑤ On page 58 Oscar compares his beloved teddy with Granny Rose. In which way are they similar ?

Discuss the following questions with your partner. (PA)

① What was your worst pain ever ?

② «People are afraid of dying, of the unknown.» Do you agree?

③ What does he think of the thirties?

④ What are his wishes at the end of his thirties and forties?

PART 5: page 61 – page 74

VOCABULARY

Translate the following words into German.

to annoy sb (62)		to be affectionate (62)	
the womaniser (62)		the reassurance (62)	
to appeal to sb (62)		the threat (63)	
to be odd (64)		to put up with sb (65)	
the cloakroom (65)		the estimation (65)	
enriching (66)		damp (67)	
to recover (68)		to be frantic (68)	
the handcuffs (68)		to resent sb for sth (68)	
to be jealous (69)		the remorse (69)	
the habit (71)		the punch (71)	
to be borderline (72)		the wheelchair (74)	

Word families: Transform the following words.

jealous	Noun :	affectionate	Noun :
the estimation	Verb :	to resent	Noun :

TEXT WORK

Answer the following questions in written form. (EA)

❶ Oscar makes only mistakes in his forties. Why?

❷ What is his wish of the day for the 23rd December?

③ How does he plan his escape? And why does he want to escape ?

④ Why does Oscar resent his parents so much?

⑤ How does Christmas day end ?

Discuss the following questions with your partner. (PA)

① How does Granny Rose drive the car?

② What is his wish of the day for the 24th December?

③ How does he feel in his sixties?

④ What is his wish of the day for the 25th December?

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GRAMMAR PART 1: Adjectives ending in -ed and -ing

① Reread some pages in your book and find sentences with adjectives using in -ed and -ing.

② What is the difference between adjectives ending in -ed and adjectives ending in -ing? Get the grammar sheet, read it and stick it into your grammar book.

③ Solve the exercise sheets.

GRAMMAR PART 2: Adjectives and Adverbs

① Reread some pages in your book and find sentences with adverbs.

② How do we form adverbs? What is the main rule?

What is the difference between adjectives and adverbs?

Get the grammar sheet, read it and stick it into your grammar book.

③ Solve the exercise sheets.

PART 6: page 75 – page 88

VOCABULARY

Translate the following words into German.

to be moving (76)		to be stingy (76)	
the mystery (77)		hangdog expression (77)	
to be frank (78)		the cure (78)	
the repairman (78)		to ease off (78)	
to have a snooze (81)		the dawn (82)	
to be indefatigable (82)		to shudder (82)	
to overestimate (84)		to be eternal (84)	
to chuck sth away (84)		to deserve sth (84)	
to convince sb (85)		to watch over sb (87)	
to ache (87)		to be insurmountable (88)	
the agony (88)			

Write a sentence using the following words.

the hangdog expression: _____

moving: _____

to deserve: _____

to overestimate: _____

TEXT WORK

Answer the following questions in written form. (EA)

❶ What does Oscar get for Christmas from Granny Rose? What is so special about it?

❷ Why are the words *LIFE*, *DEATH*, *FAITH* and *GOD* not in the medical dictionary according to Granny Rose?

❸ What does Oscar recommend Dr Düsseldorf? How would you describe Oscar's behaviour?

❹ How does he feel about life when he is 100 years old?

❺ At what age does he die and how ?

Discuss the following questions with your partner. (PA)

- ① What is his wish of the day for the 26th December?
- ② What happens when he gets 80?
- ③ How does he experience the visit of God?
- ④ What is his wish of the day for the 28th December?
- ⑤ Which job does he ask God to finish for him?
- ⑥ What difference did Oscar make in Granny Rose's life according to her letter?
- ⑦ In the end Oscar did believe in God. How do we know that?

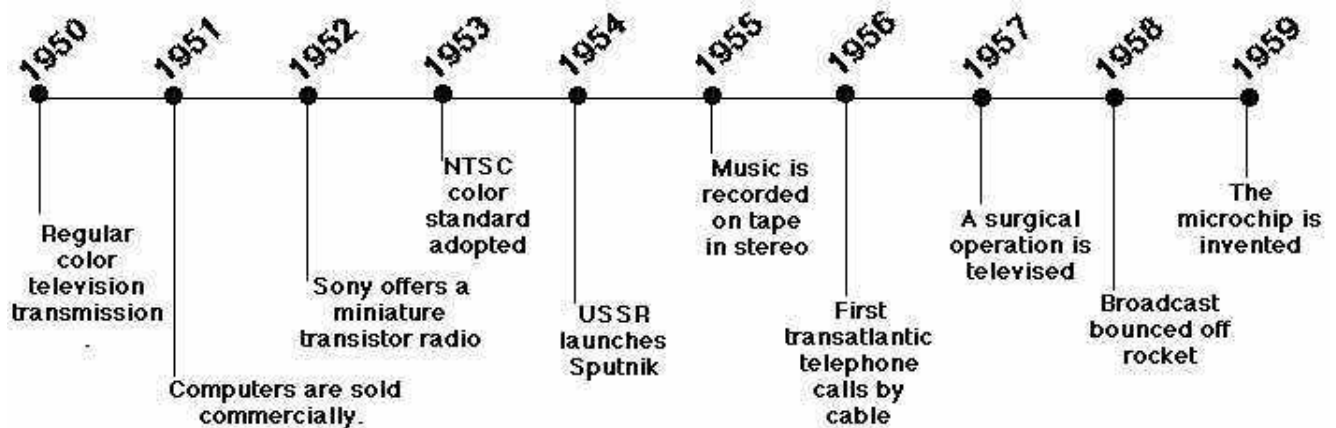
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ADDITIONAL TASKS

TEXT WORK

① Take a sheet and draw a timeline from 10 – 110. Summarise Oscar's life in keywords.

EXAMPLE OF A TIMELINE:



② CHARACTER STUDY: On a separate sheet, define the four following characters. Which adjectives would you use to describe them and why ? How do they behave and why ?

OSCAR

GRANNY ROSE

OSCAR'S PARENTS

THE HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN

③ ANALYSIS OF THE TEXTUAL FORM:

Which language does the author Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt use? What is the consequence of this?

The novel shows some similarities with theatre plays. What are the three main similarities ?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

④ Discuss the following questions with your partner. (PA)

① Which are the main topics of the novel?

② Do you like the story? Why or why not? How does it make you feel?

③ If you could chose to be one character of the book – which one would you like to be and why?

ADDITIONAL TASKS

VOCABULARY

Fill in the gaps using one of the words in your vocabulary lists.

- a) Could you do me a _____ and buy some milk for me ?
- b) There are a lot of _____ diseases all over the world : AIDS, typhus, malaria, ebola and the pest.
- c) Heroes in Hollywood films such as Tom Cruise, Samuel L.Jackson or Arnold Schwarzenegger are usually called to be _____.
- d) I was very _____ when I got mark 4 in the mathematics test. I've learnt so much!
- e) To _____ is another word for to *STEAL*.
- f) People that talk about other people behind their back are said to be _____.
- g) A fortuneteller (Wahrsager) can _____ the happenings of your life.
- h) Sorry Miss, I can't find any tomato sauce in the racks. Have you got some left _____?
- i) Two children born together are called _____. Three children born together are called _____.
- j) People that insist on their opinion although it is wrong are said to be _____.
- k) To _____ is another word for *TO GET WELL AGAIN*.
- l) _____ stories such as *EIN GANZES HALBES JAHR* always make me cry.
- m) A lot of scientists are doing research in order to make life _____.
- n) If you've got pain in your head we call it _____. If you've got pain in your stomach we call it _____.
- o) *TO DIE* is another word for to _____.