

Englischarbeit Klasse 9

Thema: Australia: the Stolen Generations, let / make / have, used to, writing a story ending

Name: _____ Datum: _____

Punkte: _____ / 80 Note: _____ Unterschrift: _____



Good luck!

Elsie's Letter

PART 1 · READING AND UNDERSTANDING (17 points)

From the late 1800s until around 1970, governments and churches in Australia took tens of thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families to make them grow up like white Australians. They are known as the Stolen Generations. Elsie's story is invented, but typical.

Elsie could not remember her mother's face or her father's voice. She had been five years old when she last saw her parents, and for as long as she could think back, people had told her that she was an orphan¹.

Then, a few weeks after her twentieth birthday, a thin envelope arrived for her. The letter inside was signed "your Aunt May". Elsie had to read the first lines three times before she understood them: her parents were not dead. They had been looking for her for fifteen years.

The letter explained what had happened. When Elsie was five, she had fallen ill with a high fever, and her father had carried her to the hospital in the nearest town. The nurses told him to go home and come back the next morning. When he came back, his daughter was gone.

Elsie still remembered the place where she had been taken: a children's home run by a church, hundreds of kilometres away from her family. The staff were often cruel. When Elsie cried for her mother at night, she was punished. Children who broke the rules were sent to bed without dinner, and some were beaten. The staff told the children to be ashamed of their dark skin and said that Aboriginal people were not as good as white Australians.

At the age of seven, Elsie was sent to live with a white couple in Perth. Mr and Mrs Holloway were kind to her, but she never really felt that she belonged. At school, other children called her names because of her skin colour. Whenever she asked about her real family, the answer was always the same: her parents had died, and her relatives were far too poor to look after her. "You're a lucky girl," she used to say. "You've got a good home and a future now."

But Aunt May's letter told a very different story. Elsie's parents had never given up. Her father had gone back to the hospital again and again, but nobody would tell him where his daughter was. He had written to the authorities², but he had never received³ an answer. It was only the year before that May had finally found Elsie's address. Now both of Elsie's parents were seriously ill, and their greatest wish was to see their daughter again. May had added their address and phone number.

Elsie sat on her bed with the letter in her hands for a long time. She did not know what to think or what to do. The only thing she knew for certain was that her life would never be the same again.

Word help: ¹ orphan – Waise · ² authorities – Behörden · ³ to receive – erhalten

1 Key steps in Elsie's life

Complete the sentences with information from the text.

a) *At the age of five, ...*

b) *Until she was seven, ...*

c) *When she was seven, ...*

d) *A few weeks after her twentieth birthday, ...*

___ / 8

2 Elsie's feelings

How did Elsie feel, and why? Use your own words; do not copy from the text.

a) *How did Elsie feel ... when she lived in the children's home? Why?*

b) *How did Elsie feel ... when she lived with the Holloways? Why?*

c) *How did Elsie feel ... after she had read Aunt May's letter? Why?*

___ / 9

3 let, make or have?**PART 2 · LANGUAGE** (19 points)

While her parents were away, Hannah had friends over. Now she is telling Zoe on the phone.

Put in the correct forms of let, make or have.

"Hi Zoe! ... Yes, it's been an awful day. Mum says she'll never (1) _____ me stay at home on my own again." (...) "Well, they came back a day early! Dad wanted to (2) _____ the carpet cleaned straight away. But I was so exhausted that Mum (3) _____ me lie down for an hour first. Unfortunately, they didn't (4) _____ me rest for long." (...) "Terrible! My little sister offered to help, but Dad wouldn't (5) _____ her touch anything – he (6) _____ me tidy up the whole living room on my own. The lamp in the hall is broken, too, so we'll have to (7) _____ it repaired by an electrician. And Mum is going to (8) _____ me pay for it out of my pocket money!" (...) "Yes. Someone had spilt cola all over the kitchen floor, and Dad (9) _____ me mop it up first." (...) "When I said that we could (10) _____ the whole flat cleaned by a cleaning company, Dad got really cross." (...) "No, sorry, I can't come on Saturday. Mum is (11) _____ me help her in the garden all weekend." (...) "Thanks, Zoe. Bye!"

___ / 11

4 used to

An old Australian woman remembers the 1930s. Rewrite the sentences with *used to*, *didn't use to* or *did ... use to*? where it makes sense.

a) *"Our family was poor, and my father worked in the gold mine."*

b) *"My grandson asks: 'Did you have a TV? Did you walk to school?'"*

c) *"Life wasn't comfortable then. We carried water from a tank. In 1956, TV finally came to Australia."*

d) *"Most families didn't own a car. Everybody had a vegetable garden, but in 1939 the war changed everything."*

___ / 8

Write an ending to the story

PART 3 · WRITING (44 points)

What do you think Elsie did after she had read her aunt's letter? Did she leave the Holloways? Did she meet her parents? Write an ending to the story (about 200 words).

Your text will be marked for content (23 points) and language (21 points).

[illegible]

Lösung: Englischarbeit Klasse 9

Insgesamt sind 80 Punkte erreichbar, halbe Punkte sind möglich.

Note 1	Note 2	Note 3	Note 4	Note 5	Note 6
80–69 P.	68,5–57 P.	56,5–45 P.	44,5–33 P.	32,5–21 P.	20,5–0 P.

1 Key steps in Elsie's life

PART 1 · READING (17 points)

Complete the sentences with information from the text.

a) *At the age of five, ...*

... Elsie fell ill with a high fever, and her father took her to hospital. There she was taken away from her family, so it was the last time she saw her parents. (l. 9)

b) *Until she was seven, ...*

... she lived in a children's home run by a church, hundreds of kilometres away from her family, together with other Aboriginal children. (l. 13)

c) *When she was seven, ...*

... she was sent to Perth to live with a white couple, Mr and Mrs Holloway. (l. 18)

d) *A few weeks after her twentieth birthday, ...*

... she received a letter from her Aunt May. It told her that her parents were still alive and had been looking for her for fifteen years. (l. 4)

8 / 8

2 Elsie's feelings

How did Elsie feel, and why? Use your own words; do not copy from the text.

a) *How did Elsie feel ... when she lived in the children's home? Why?*

She felt lonely, frightened and very unhappy. She missed her parents, and the staff treated the children badly: she was punished when she cried for her mother, children who broke the rules got no dinner or were beaten, and they were told that Aboriginal people were worth less than white people.

b) *How did Elsie feel ... when she lived with the Holloways? Why?*

She felt like an outsider and never really at home, although the Holloways were kind to her. She was different from her new family, and other children at school insulted her because of her skin colour. She also did not know the truth about her real family.

c) *How did Elsie feel ... after she had read Aunt May's letter? Why?*

She was shocked and confused (possibly also angry, sad and hopeful at the same time). She found out that what people had told her for fifteen years was a lie, that her parents had been looking for her all the time and that they were now seriously ill.

9 / 9

3 let, make or have?

PART 2 · LANGUAGE (19 points)

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Put in the correct forms of let, make or have.

"Hi Zoe! ... Yes, it's been an awful day. Mum says she'll never (1) let me stay at home on my own again." (...) "Well, they came back a day early! Dad wanted to (2) have the carpet cleaned straight away. But I was so exhausted that Mum (3) made / let me lie down for an hour first. Unfortunately, they didn't (4) let me rest for long." (...) "Terrible! My little sister offered to help, but Dad wouldn't (5) let her touch anything – he (6) made / had me tidy up the whole living room on my own. The lamp in the hall is broken, too, so we'll have to (7) have it repaired by an electrician. And Mum is going to (8) make / have me pay for it out of my pocket money!" (...) "Yes. Someone had spilt cola all over the kitchen floor, and Dad (9) made / had me mop it up first." (...) "When I said that we could (10) have the whole flat cleaned by a cleaning company, Dad got really cross." (...) "No, sorry, I can't come on Saturday. Mum is (11) making me help her in the garden all weekend." (...) "Thanks, Zoe. Bye!"

11 / 11

4 used to

An old Australian woman remembers the 1930s. Rewrite the sentences with used to, didn't use to or did ... use to? where it makes sense.

- a) "Our family was poor, and my father worked in the gold mine."
"Our family **used to be** poor, and my father **used to work** in the gold mine."
- b) "My grandson asks: 'Did you have a TV? Did you walk to school?'"
"My grandson asks: '**Did you use to have** a TV? **Did you use to walk** to school?'"
- c) "Life wasn't comfortable then. We carried water from a tank. In 1956, TV finally came to Australia."
"Life **didn't use to be** comfortable then. We **used to carry** water from a tank. In 1956, TV finally came to Australia." („In 1956 ..." bleibt: einmaliges Ereignis.)
- d) "Most families didn't own a car. Everybody had a vegetable garden, but in 1939 the war changed everything."
"Most families **didn't use to own** a car. Everybody **used to have** a vegetable garden, but in 1939 the war changed everything." („in 1939 ..." bleibt: einmaliges Ereignis.)

8 / 8

What do you think Elsie did after she had read her aunt's letter? Did she leave the Holloways? Did she meet her parents? Write an ending to the story (about 200 words).

Your text will be marked for content (23 points) and language (21 points).

Beispiellösung (individuelle Lösungen):

The next morning, Elsie went to the post office and dialled the number from the letter with shaking fingers. A woman answered. "Is that you, Elsie?" Aunt May asked quietly, and Elsie started to cry.

That evening she told the Holloways about the letter. Mrs Holloway turned pale. At first she said that she had only wanted the best for Elsie, but in the end she admitted that she had known all along that Elsie's parents were alive. Elsie felt hurt and angry, but she also knew that she had to make her own decision now.

A week later she packed a small suitcase and took the train north. When she arrived after the long journey, Aunt May was waiting at the station. In a small house at the edge of town, a thin, grey-haired man was sitting next to a woman in bed. Her father looked at her for a long time before he said her name. Her mother took her hand and did not let it go.

Elsie stayed with her parents for the rest of the summer. She learnt her first words of her family's language and heard stories about her grandparents. For the first time in fifteen years, she knew where she belonged.

Mögliche Inhalte: Elsie's erste Reaktion auf den Brief, Kontakt mit Tante May, Gespräch mit den Holloways, Entscheidung (bleiben oder gehen), Reise zu den Eltern, Wiedersehen, was sich in Elsie's Leben verändert. Das Ende knüpft an den letzten Satz des Textes an („her life would never be the same again“).