

HANDOUT 2.3 C - KARL'S FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

QUESTIONS

Directions: As you read Karl's Going to School complete the following questions. You will need to use a calculator, a world map, and the Internet.

1. Use a calculator to help you convert the early morning temperature in February to degrees Fahrenheit.

$$1.8 \times C^{\circ} \text{ temp} + 32 = F^{\circ} \quad \text{or} \quad 9/5 \times C^{\circ} \text{ temp} + 32 = F^{\circ}$$

2. List 3 requirements a child must meet in order to start school

1.

2.

3.

3. Recycling is very important in Germany. In what bin would you put a cell phone that does not work?

4. Use a calculator to help you convert Karl's height and weight into the US customary measurements.

$$1 \text{ kg} = 2.2 \text{ pounds}$$

$$100 \text{ cm} = 1 \text{ m}$$

$$1 \text{ m} = 39 \text{ inches}$$

5. What conclusions can we draw from grandmother Gabi's explanation about the stripes on Karl's school-bag? (So the car drivers can see you well in winter)

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6. Find Germany and Canada on a map. What is the range of latitude degrees?

If the countries have similar latitudes, why does Germany have a warmer climate than Canada?

7. Use a calculator to help you convert €3.50 into dollars.

$$\text{\$}1.40 = \text{€}1$$

8. Playmobil is a toy company in Germany. Use the Internet to find out what kind of toys it makes. Then draw a toy you think Karl might like.
9. Design the outside of Karl's *Schultüte*. Typically the cone is either handmade or purchased with its design relating to the child's interest.
10. The lesson of the rabbit is an allegory¹. Explain why this is a good story for Frau König to read to the children the first day of school.
11. Use your background knowledge and name another fairy tale by the Grimm brothers.
12. When does a German child begin to learn a foreign language in school?
13. Not all children have a parent who stays at home. Where might those children go after school?
14. Germans use the 24-hour time system vs the 12-hour time system used in the US. What time does Karl's school start and finish using the US time system?
15. Use a German-English dictionary on the computer to find out the non-candy items that are listed in Karl's *Schultüte*.

1 A story with a hidden meaning

16. List as many differences as you can between your school and Karl's.
17. Explain what happens when Karl is ready to leave elementary school. How does this differ from your school system?

KARL'S FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - ANSWERS

1. 5 degrees C = 41 degrees F
2.
 - A child must be enrolled if they turn six by the end of June
 - They must have a physical examination
 - They must complete the registration paperwork
3. The orange bin for items that may be broken but can be taken apart for parts.
4. 21 kg = 46 lbs and 116 cm = 3 ft and 9.5 in
5. The stripes are probably reflective to allow drivers to see Karl easily
The stripes are probably large and prominent
6. 44 degrees N (the countries may have similar latitudes but warmer or colder climates because of wind patterns, elevation or environment)
7. \$ 1.40 = €1 so \$4.90
8. Answers will vary
9. Answers will vary
10. The rabbit is a metaphor for the child who is going to the first day of school. At first, like a child, the rabbit wants to stay home and not deal with an unfamiliar and potentially uncomfortable situation, but then realizes it has the courage to do so. The story is meant to allow children to identify with the rabbit's feelings of discomfort and overcome them once they realize that they too, like the rabbit, have courage. The happy ending of the rabbit finding his courage is an inspiration for the children to do the same.
11. Snow White, Little Red Riding Hood etc.
12. In third grade
13. They can go to the Hort to eat lunch or go to violin lessons
14. It starts at 8:00am and finishes at 1:30pm
15. a *Bleistifte* = a pencil
a *Radiergummi* = erasers
a *Buch* = a book
a small *Teddybär* = teddybear
16. Schools in America end at 3:00pm and have less of an emphasis on 'working together as a community.' Also, classes don't stay with one teacher for four years.
17. His next school depends on what his future career or test scores will be.