

Tanz mit Mir

This is a great relevant book for teens that deals with peer pressure and fitting in. Tom is new to school and he's desperate to fit in with the crowd. But when he goes to a party one night he gets caught up in drugs and drink that leads to a terrible accident of one of his classmates.

Why I would recommend this book

It's a great book that shows the consequences of substance abuse and peer pressure

Why I wouldn't recommend this book

For readers who aren't fluent German speakers the story can become quite confusing.

Score: 6/10

Yildiz heißt Stern

Yildiz is a young Turkish girl. Born in Germany Yildiz and her family own a small vegetable shop. Yildiz faces many conflicts in the book such as the rise of the Neo Nazis that target her family with vicious hate crimes and her religious challenges.

Why I would recommend this book

The story deals with topical issues such as the role of women in Islamic countries and the rise of the Neo Nazis in Europe. Which I found educational.

Why I wouldn't recommend the book

The level of German used was difficult.

Score: 8/10

Eine Liebesgeschichte

Jenny is a 30 year old actor. Her birthday is fast approaching. Deszö is her colleague that is doing everything in his power to impress her. When Jenny invites Deszö to come to her party Deszö hopes he can win Jenny's heart so the pair can finally play the perfect couple off stage.

Why I would recommend this book.

This book comes with added activities after each chapter to improve your German vocabulary and the story is also an easy read.

Why I wouldn't recommend this book

The story is very short so if you are looking for a long romantic love story this may not be for you.

Score: 5/10

Bitterschokolade

Eva is a 15 year old girl with body issues. Her parents are really strict on sweets and chocolate. Eva eats to cope with disappointment and that's why she carries weight. Eva feels isolated and alone until she meets Michel and learns to love herself for who she is.

Why I would recommend this book

The story has some useful life lessons for teens about growing up and it's a very good story.

Why I wouldn't recommend this book,

The story is more suited for pre-teens because the story isn't very advanced.

Score 7/10

Rettet die Geparde

Rettet die Geparde is a book about a brother and sister from Hamburg with some English, and their friends that can speak some German in South Africa, who come across a plot to illegally smuggle cheetahs out of the country happening right under their noses.

Why I would recommend this book

The book is great for people looking to improve their German as the language used is not too advanced, and the story is relatively simple to the point where you should not have trouble figuring out what is going on at any given time. The book also has some English dialogue intended for German children learning English, just like the characters in the book, which can also help clarify details for those who may have trouble with the German used at times.

Why I would not recommend this book

The story is neither complex nor profound, so if you are past the level of both German and English used in the book, do not waste any time on it. However, at 120 odd pages, this isn't a big issue. The book is also quite old, taking place in 2006 and referencing old-fashioned tech such as AOL, so if you're looking for something relevant to life nowadays, you might want to avoid *Rettet die Geparde*.

Score: 6/10

I read three books of level A1 from the easy readers section. They were all written by the same author and with slightly related themes. I really like the way that the author uses similar vocabulary in each of the stories so as that when reading them all in succession, you can get a better understanding of the story, and get used to the different phrases that are used.

Spannende Tour im Schwarzwald by Andrea Maria Wagner

This short book is about two young boys who decide to go on a cycling trip together through a forest. They meet a girl along the way and when a suspicious jeep drives out of the forest, they decide to investigate and are shocked by what they find.

I found this book really good for someone who is still a beginner with learning German. Although the story wasn't the most exciting, I found that the vocabulary that the author used was language that I am familiar with and that I could easily understand.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is at a beginner stage of learning German and wants to improve their understanding of the language.

Unheimliches im Wald by Andrea Maria Wagner

This book is about a boy and girl who get separated from their class whilst in a dark forest when a storm starts. They are forced to hide out up a tree and wait to be found by their teachers because there are dangers lurking below them.

I would recommend this book to people who are at the early stages of learning the language but who have read different stories before because I found that the language in this book, although similar to the last, was slightly more difficult.

Abenteuer im Schnee by Andrea Maria Wagner

A brother and sister go on a ski trip to Ruhpolding where they meet another boy. One day, whilst on the slopes, there is an avalanche and the three are separated, whilst the brother makes it back safely to the hotel, the other two are stuck out in a snowstorm, trying to find shelter.

This book was quite entertaining and was easy to understand. I like the way that the author used simple vocabulary and common phrases so as that the reader could apprehend the storyline.

I would recommend this book to transition year students who are still learning German and who want to improve their ability to understand the language.