

Dorothy excused herself by saying she needed to check on Trotsky, and she went home for lunch.

“This election,” she said as she ate a cheese sandwich and Trotsky sat staring at her until she gave him some cheese, too, “is getting ridiculous!”



The next day was Saturday. Dorothy had just finished getting dressed, when there was a knock at the door. It was Armin.

“Dorothy,” he announced. “I have the perfect plan to impress the voters of Heroldstein, but I need your help, immediately. Come along! You can bring Trotsky, too.”

They hurried off towards the Fischbach, a little stream just outside the village. As they approached, Dorothy saw there were two or three other people already there. She asked who they were.

“Volunteers like you,” said Armin, his eyes shining. “I’ve organized some people to clear up all the rubbish that has collected along the banks of the stream. That’ll show everybody who should lead the church council.”

Armin distributed gloves and rubbish bags, and they were about to start work when, on the other side of the stream, a similar group of reluctant villagers were marched up by Frau Moser. Both groups looked at each other across the water.

“Oh, dear!” said Dorothy to Armin. “What are you going to do now?”

ridiculous
[rɪˈdɪkjʊləs]
- lächerlich

approach [əˈprəʊtʃ]
- sich nähern

volunteer
[ˌvɒləntɪə]
- Freiwillige(r)

bank [bæŋk]
- hier: Ufer

reluctant
[rɪˈlʌktənt]
- unlustig, zögernd

Exercise 27: Comprehension

Read chapter 2, then choose the best answer — A, B or C — to complete the sentences below.

1. Frau Apfelbaum is about the possible results of the church council elections.
A. angry B. frightened C. worried
2. The key to the church is hidden
A. carefully B. poorly C. secretly
3. Armin and Frau Moser are very about the election.
A. competitive B. cheerful C. excited
4. Dorothy finds the behaviour of Frau Moser and Armin to be
A. funny B. surprising C. stupid
5. The people with Armin and Frau Moser were to collect rubbish on a Saturday.
A. pleased B. forced C. willing

Exercise 28: Vocabulary

Put the words into the sentences. There is one word too many.

shining – impress – boring – valuable – desperate – vandalized

1. Unfortunately, somebody the graveyard. They smashed some gravestones.
2. The house isn't worth much, but the land is very
3. Being a politician isn't much fun. Most of the work is pretty
4. Trying to voters in Heroldstein is very hard.
5. It was clear that the candidates were excited; when they talked about the election, their eyes were