

King's College London, Department of German Königspost Competition 2018

'Das Monsterbaby erwartet von der Mutter Meer, immer wieder neue Windeln zu waschen. Das Meer wird als eine überdimensionale Waschmaschine benutzt.'

Yoko Tawada, 'Meine Salzwassermutter' (2017)



The German Department of King's College London seeks to publish one original piece of writing in German by a student of German in Year 12 or 13 that responds to this quotation from a short story by the German-Japanese author Yoko Tawada.

The problem of water pollution, especially in our oceans, is one that has come to dominate international news headlines and media over recent years. High-profile documentaries such as *Blue Planet II* have raised public awareness of the damaging and far-reaching impact of plastic and microplastics on marine life and aquatic food chains. With over-fishing and global warming, researchers warn of a crisis with 90% of large fish and half of all coral having disappeared already. In the German context, Friends of the Earth reported in 2018 that 92% of all surface water has either been contaminated by agricultural chemicals or polluted in a way that threatens freshwater species, and that Germany is one of the least advanced countries in the EU in the domain of water protection.

By calling for a textual response to the quotation by Yoko Tawada, this competition invites you to consider some of these issues or choose others that are of significance to you. Why are our oceans being polluted? How can we save our rivers and seas? Students are encouraged to submit either articles, or more creative responses that take the form of reflexive essays or short prose texts, which engage with the striking images used by Yoko Tawada to convey ecological crisis.

Prizes:

The author of the winning text will receive a book token and will have his/her entry published in the winter edition of the *Königspost*, the Department newspaper, which has a wide circulation among university students and learners of German across the UK. Prizes will also be awarded to runners-up.

Ceremony:

The winner and runners-up will be invited to a prize-giving ceremony and seminar at King's College London in early December 2018.

Format:

Texts should be 400-450 words in length and written in German. The topic may be addressed from any angle; your piece may take the form of a discursive article, or you may choose a more creative form. Submissions will be judged on the basis of both content and language.

Submission:

Texts should be submitted by e-mail, together with the attached entry form, to jenna.gittermann@kcl.ac.uk, by 22 November 2018.

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Entry form

Please complete this form and return it with your entry to Jenna Gittermann (jenna.gittermann@kcl.ac.uk) by 22nd November 2018.

Name.....

Date of birth.....

E-mail address.....

School name and address

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School year.....

How long have you been learning German?.....

By ticking this box, I confirm that the entry submitted to the KCL Königspost Competition 2018 is all my own work.

Date.....