

## Unterrichtsmaterial *Stone Cold* Pre-viewing tasks

### Introduction

*Link tries to make a living in London after he has left his mother's house. When he loses a job and is exploited by a greedy landlady, he has to live in the streets. There he finds friends, but also people who steal from him. But the worst person is someone named "Shelter", who ...*

### Task:

Read the beginning of the novel below and try to find out who the speakers/narrators are. Choose one character and write a character profile: What's your name? Does your name mean anything? Who are you? Where are you? Where are you from? How do you feel about what you see?

Let the two characters meet in the street. Write a short dialogue and then act it out.

### Beginning of the novel *Stone Cold*, Klett edition, p. 13

You call me Link. It's not my name, but it's what I say when anybody asks, which isn't often. I'm <sup>1</sup>invisible, see? One of the invisible people. Right now I'm sitting in a doorway watching the passers-by. They <sup>2</sup>avoid looking at me. They're afraid I want something they've got, and they're right. Also, they don't want to think about me. They don't like <sup>3</sup>reminding I exist. Me, and those like me. We're living <sup>4</sup>proof that everything's not all right and we make the place <sup>5</sup>untidy.  
<sup>6</sup>Hang about and I'll tell you the story of my fascinating life.

### <sup>7</sup>Daily Routine Orders 1 (p. 14)

<sup>8</sup>Shelter. Yes. I like it. It's <sup>9</sup>got a ring to it as I'm sure you'll agree. Shelter, as in shelter from the stormy <sup>10</sup>blast. It's what they're all <sup>11</sup>seeking. The street people. What they <sup>12</sup>crave. If they can only find shelter everything will be fine. Well – <sup>13</sup>get fell in, my lucky<sup>14</sup> lads. I'm ready for you.

### Daily Routine Orders 2 (p. 18)

I'm getting used to my name... Good morning. Shelter, I say to the bathroom mirror... You're a handsome devil...

The street people aren't going to go away...

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<sup>1</sup> Cannot be seen

<sup>2</sup> They try not to look at me

<sup>3</sup> Erinnert werden

<sup>4</sup> Beweis

<sup>5</sup> Not clean and orderly

<sup>6</sup> Stay

<sup>7</sup> Military: the order of the day (*Tagesbefehl*)

<sup>8</sup> Name of the person speaking: meaning: Protection *Schutz*

<sup>9</sup> It sounds really good

<sup>10</sup> Blast strong wind

<sup>11</sup> Looking for

<sup>12</sup> Long for (*sich sehnen nach*)

<sup>13</sup> Military: in der Reihe antreten

<sup>14</sup> Boys

## The beginning of the script (written by the PH Playmates)

### Act 1 Scene 1

#### **Tasks:**

**Group work (4 people):** Read the script in your group several times and make a character profile of the characters before you play the scenes.

*Discuss before acting out: How do you imagine them? What do they look like? What do they wear? Are they happy, melancholy, angry? How do they speak? In a loud, low, angry, excited... voice? Do they shout, cry, scream? What is the atmosphere of the scenes like? Find music that fits each scene....*

*Play the scenes in your groups.*

#### **Characters: Link (Dave), Carol - Link's sister, Joan - Link's mother, Vince - Link's stepfather**

*The street. A <sup>15</sup>litter bin. Link. His clothes are <sup>16</sup>scruffy and he look dirty. He takes a good look at the audience, then speaks to them.*

**Link:** Have you ever sat and watched people, really watched them?  
They're all in their own little world. You might as well be invisible.

*People are passing by.*

I've thought about going home but that would mean apologising.

*(Pause)*

My mum used to live for us when it was just me, my sister Carol and her. Nothing else mattered. Until she met Vince.

*Carol and Joan on another part of the stage.*

**Carol:** I hate him, I really hate him. He's <sup>17</sup>disgusting.

**Joan:** Vince isn't a bad man. If you'd just give him a chance.

**Link:** Carol moved in with her boyfriend. With no one to back me up, it was like living in a nightmare.

**Vince:** How old are you?  
I was working when I was your age. Bringing money home to help pay my way, know what I'm saying?

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<sup>15</sup>15 Garbage (Abfall)

<sup>16</sup> Shabby

<sup>17</sup> Horrible

So where have you been?  
Your mother was worried.

So?

If you're expecting me to keep yer son, you've got  
another thing coming. Things have changed round here.

You pay your own way.

(I'm on your side, son, I only wish you'd see it.)

**Link:** Ever get the feeling you're not wanted? Nine days I've been out  
here now.

*He puts some pieces of cardboard on the ground and tries  
to make himself comfortable.*

If someone had told me, even a couple of months ago, that I'd be  
<sup>18</sup>stuck out here on Christmas Eve, I think I'd have laughed in their face.

I'm going somewhere else when I get the cash together.

## Act 1 Scene 2

*Christmas dinner at Joan's place. They're wearing <sup>19</sup>Christmas / party hats.  
Christmas tree, Christmas crackers. Christmas music.*

**Vince:** Hey Carol.

*Vince <sup>20</sup>belches.*

**Carol:** Do you have to?

*Vince leans in closer and belches again.*

You're disgusting.

**Vince:** Stop whining, girl. It's Christmas, isn't it!  
(*To Joan*) Get me another beer, will you, love.

*Joan goes to fetch it, Carol tries to stop her.*

**Carol:** Let him get it, mum.

**Joan:** I don't mind. (*Exit Joan.*)

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<sup>18</sup> Lost

<sup>19</sup> The English celebrate Christmas differently. The Christmas party is more like our New Year's party with  
crackers (*Knallbonbons*).

<sup>20</sup> Burp

**Vince:** Pull a cracker with me, Carol.

**Carol:** *(tries to take it away from Vince.)* That's the last one. You should save it.

**Vince:** *(holds on to it.)* What for, next year?

*They pull from both ends, it cracks open.*

**Vince:** Look, it's a hair brush.  
Give that to your brother Dave.

**Carol:** That's not funny.

**Vince:** Too touchy, that's your trouble.

*Carol walks away from Vince and meets Joan and Link by the door.*

**Joan:** Look who it is.

**Vince:** Oh look what the cat brought in.

*Link walks past him. Looks at him <sup>21</sup>contemptuously.*

**Joan:** Vince, don't.

**Vince:** Don't what?

**Joan:** Sit down, love.

**Carol:** *(To Link)* This is your chair.

**Vince:** Yeah, the one covered in plastic.

*Vince laughs, Carol shakes her head and looks at Vince <sup>22</sup>scornfully.*

*(To Carol)* What's the matter with you today?

*(To Link)* Davey thinks it's funny, don't yer, lad?

**Link:** <sup>23</sup>Hilarious Vince, yeah.

**Carol:** *(puts her arm around Link)* Take no notice. It's nice to have you with us Dave. We've got a present for you, ain't we, mum?

**Joan:** Yeah.

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<sup>21</sup> Verächtlich

<sup>22</sup> Verächtlich

<sup>23</sup> funny

**Link:** (embarrassed) Oh. Great.

**Vince:** It's a bar of soap.

**Link:** I don't know what to say. I didn't bring presents for anyone.

**Joan:** That's all right, son. We know you haven't got much.

**Carol:** (hands Link the present.) It's from all of us.

**Link:** Thanks.

**Joan:** We all paid for-

**Vince:** I <sup>24</sup>bloody didn't.

**Carol:** Thought it might be useful you know.

*Carol, Joan and Vince watch Link as he unwraps the present. He finds a sleeping bag inside.*

**Link:** A sleeping bag. Thanks.

*After you have read and acted everything out, predict in your groups what will happen in the play. Write it down on a poster, present it to your class and reread it after seeing the play. Have you predicted correctly?*

### **Alternative task**

**In groups of 4-5 people use the following items in an improvised scene:**

Sleeping bag

Blanket

Newspaper

Cardboard

Coins

Tin box

Plastic bag

**After 10-15 minutes of preparation perform your scene in front of the class.**

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<sup>24</sup> Verflucht

**Post-viewing tasks:**

1. Here are some names and useful vocabulary to talk about *Stone Cold* (after the performance).

Shuffle the cards and draw one. Use the word to talk about the play.



self-confident	to long for	tomato soup	scared	homeless
to search	to lure s.o. (locken)	love	undercover reporter	street life
fake (falsch) name	desperate	disgusting	to murder s.o.	obsessed with
lonely	frightened	depressed	to beg	sad
creepy	repulsive (abstoßend)	murderer	to mourn (trauern)	scary
cold-hearted	to leave	filthy	beggar	to pursue (verfolgen)
Link	Shelter shelter	to have a crush on s.o. (verknallt sein)	Tom	police

<b>to blame s.o</b>	<b>to take advantage of s.o. (jdn. ausnutzen)</b>	<b>Gail Louise</b>	<b>Toya</b>	<b>Ginger</b>
<b>to despise (verachten)</b>	<b>to relate to</b>	<b>to connect</b>	<b>to contact</b>	<b>to reject (zurückweisen)</b>
<b>Toya's father</b>	<b>to beg</b>	<b>homeless</b>	<b>danger(ous)</b>	<b>Link's mum</b>
<b>Link's sister Carol</b>	<b>undercover journalism</b>	<b>newspaper</b>	<b>to get rid of</b>	<b>...</b>

## 2. Creative writing

**Make a kenning about a character: a kenning is a two-word line ending on the syllable er pronounced as -er.**

**Example: Monster**

Add the first word to each word in black. Here's my example. Words in red have been added to the word in black.

**fear**      lover

**people**    hater

**energy**    taker

**fright**     giver

**trouble**    maker

**meat**       eater

**cruel**       dweller (Bewohner)

**revengeful** fellow (pronounced like fella)

**Now make a kenning for Link (and/or any other character).**

\_\_\_\_\_ lover                      \_\_\_\_\_ maker

\_\_\_\_\_ eater                        \_\_\_\_\_ hater

\_\_\_\_\_ dweller                      \_\_\_\_\_ taker

\_\_\_\_\_ giver                         \_\_\_\_\_ fellow

You can write any kenning with a compound (two words) that ends on –er



### 3. Statements - right or wrong?

Tick the correct statements and correct the wrong ones. Add something to the right statements that you think important or just finish beginning sentences.

	Yes	No
Link's real name is Peter		
Link is his street name because he does not want to be known by his real name.		
Link likes his stepfather.		
His sister has moved out of the mother's household.		
Tom disappears and no one knows where he went.		
Ginger does not like Link.		
Shelter offers shelter to homeless people.		
Nick and Toya are in love.		
Link's family have a harmonious Christmas party.		
Link likes his Christmas present because he can use it well.		
Louise is excited about her job as an undercover reporter.		
The landlady enjoys Link's company.		
Toya's father is desperately looking for his son.		
<b>Here you can create your own statements for your classmates.</b>		

**4. For more advanced students**

Go into groups of four. Each student draws one card. He/she has to answer the question of his/her card in more than one sentence.



Is Shelter an evil man? Say why, why not.	Describe Gail's and Link's relationship.	Say how you understand the ending. Was it appropriate? If not, invent a new ending.	Is Link naïve? Say why, why not.
What is Gail's real intention? Has she taken advantage of Link?	How should homeless youngsters be treated by society?	Analyze Shelter's character.	Does Shelter change throughout the story?
How would you have behaved if you were Tom? Would you have gone home with Shelter?	Should Toya have confessed her love of Nick?	Do you think Heather and Louise are real friends?	What is Link's family conflict ?
How would the story be different if Link's mother hadn't met Vince?	Do you believe what Vince says to Link? Is his character believable? Why, why not?	Would Link and Ginger still be friends if Ginger had stayed?	What role do the journalists play in the story?
Does Gail take advantage of Link?	Try to find suitable adjectives for Louise and Heather's relationship.	What are Shelter's justifications for his deeds?	Name the reasons for homeless people to live in the streets (also in Germany)?

## 5. The ending

**Finish this summary by writing the ending according to the play.**

**Another group may write an ending that they would have liked better. Send it to me and I will forward it to the author Robert Swindells.**

The play *Stone Cold* deals with the life and the dangers of homeless young people.

Link, the protagonist, is treated badly by his mother's boyfriend Vince who does not want to keep him. Link runs away from home and ends up in the streets of London. At first he has a job and rents a room from a mean old landlady, who throws him out when he cannot pay the rent. When he has no money left, he meets friendly Ginger who teaches him to beg. He shares everything with him, but he also meets dangerous people who steal from him (like Scouse). All of a sudden his friends disappear. What happened to them? Have they left London? Have they returned home? Is somebody after them? Finally he befriends a homeless girl who seems to be different. He is falling in love with her. His hopes are up ...



## 6. Personal evaluation of the play

### Story

What I liked most about the play was .....

What I didn't like about the play was.....

For me the most important scene /statement/sentence was when.....

It showed that .....

Another good scene was .....

because .....

I didn't like the scene when .....

.....

### Characters

The characters I could sympathise most were .....

because .....

### Acting

**The persons I found most interesting on stage were:**

.....

.....

..... because .....

Do you understand homeless people better after watching the play? In how far?

.....

.....

Send me your evaluations.