Krabat

Education support pack: Information & classroom activities





Krabat

Germany 2008

Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner

Length: 115 minutes

German with English subtitles

What is the film about?

The year is 1646. Krabat is a starving fourteen year old orphan from Germany who has struggled for survival after seeing his country decimated by war and disease. One night, a strange voice calls out to Krabat in his dreams, beckoning the destitute boy to a mysterious mill in the countryside. When the miller offers Krabat room and board in exchange for becoming an apprentice, the hungry young boy readily accepts. But something isn't quite right in this mill, and Krabat can sense it. He gradually begins to suspect that the eleven other young men who live in the mill are harbouring a mysterious secret, suspicions that are later confirmed when the curious newcomer discovers that his fellow apprentices are involved with some truly bizarre activities. Upon further inquiry, Krabat discovers that the miller is in fact a master of the black arts, and that the young men who reside in the mill are his apprentices. Fascinated by their magic and eager to belong, Krabat accepts their invitation to become a member of their secret society. However, when Krabat discovers that his new master's plans could spell doom for his protector and best friend Tonda, he realizes that in order to save Tonda he will somehow have to break free of the malevolent sorcerer's powerful grip...

Characters in the film

Krabat - A fourteen year old German boy who becomes an apprentice in the mill.

Tonda - Senior apprentice in the mill, becomes a friend of Krahat.

Der Meister - Owner of the mill and a master of black magic.

Lyschko - Apprentice in the mill, curries favour with the 'Meister'.

Kantorka - Girl who lives in Schwarzkollm, a small village next to the mill; she and Krabat fall in love.

Juro - Apprentice in the mill; he cooks and cleans for the miller and the other apprentices.

Background information

Source

Krabat is based on Otfried Preußler's novel Krabat ("The Satanic Mill" in English) written in 1971.

Award

With 1.6 million cinemagoers the film became one of the highlights of German cinema in 2008. It was awarded the "Bayerischer Filmpreis".

Die Sorben – a national minority in Germany

The plot of Krabat is close to a Sorbian tale of the 17th century. The Sorbs settled in Lusatia, a region located in East Germany and Poland. In Germany they are accepted as a national minority. They have their own language and culture. Many Sorbian customs are still practised and have been adopted all over Germany, for example painting eggs for Easter.

Religious conflict: the Thirty Years' War

The film Krabat is set during the last two years of The Thirty Years' War (1618 – 1648). It was fought primarily on the territory of today's Germany. Most of the countries of Europe were involved. The main reason was religious conflict between Catholics and Protestants. Impacts of the Thirty Years' War caused an extensive devastation of entire regions, famine and disease. Therefore the population of the German states decreased by one third and in some regions more than half of the people died. The war was ended with the Peace of Westphalia in 1648.

Young people

In the novel, the author points out that Krabat's story is also the story of all young people who come into contact with power and its trappings. From his point of view the only way out of it is willpower, help from friends and the power of love.

"... es ist die Geschichte aller jungen Leute, die mit der Macht und ihren Verlockungen in Berührung kommen und sich darin verstricken. Da gibt es nur einen Ausweg, den einzigen, den ich kenne: den festen Willen, sich davon freizumachen, die Hilfe von treuen Freunden – und jene Hilfe, die einem aus der Kraft der Liebe zuwächst, der Liebe, die stärker ist als die Macht des Bösen und alle Verlockungen dieser Welt."

(zitiert nach www.preussler.de)

Themes related to the film

Responsibility & Friendship Power & Liberty Death Black Magic & Super Powers

Links related to the film

The official website of the film:

www.krabat-derfilm.de Information about the film: de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krabat

Material for the film by the German "Stiftung Lesen": www.stiftunglesen.de/krabat

Material from the Goethe-Institut in France:

http://www.goethe.de/ins/fr/lp/prj/cal/fil/kra/deindex.htm

Activities before the film

Find out about the Thirty Years' War.

- When did it take place?
- Who was involved in it?
- What was it about?
- What about Scotland and England were they also involved in the Thirty Years' War?
- What impact did the war have on ordinary people?



Useful web pages in German:

de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drei%C3%9Figj%C3%A4hriger_Krieg www.lehrer.uni-karlsruhe.de/~za146/barock/30krieg.htm www.regiment-mackay.de/content/view/75/145/

Useful web pages in English:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Years%27_War www.strategos.demon.co.uk/tywhome/ www.reformation.org/lion-of-the-north.html

Religious congregations in Germany.

The main reason for the Thirty Years' War was a religious conflict between Catholics and Protestants.

Today most people in Germany are either Protestants (c. 30%) or Catholics (c. 30%). Other people are for example Muslim, Orthodox or don't belong to any denomination. The religions are roughly related to particular regions. For example, in Bavaria most people are Catholic and in the North of Germany most people are Protestant.

What about your own country?

- Are religions linked to certain geographical parts in your own country?
- The film's story is based on a Sorbian tale. The Sorbs are an ethnic minority in Germany. Are there also minorities, minority languages or cultures in your own country?
- · Which customs from minority cultures do you know?





Activities for the classroom

Activities after the film

Activity 1

Characters in the film

Connect the character with the correct description as shown in the example.

Kantorka	'Der Geselle' Is the senior apprentice when Krabat arrives at the mill.			
Worschula	'Der Meister' Made a pact with the devil.			
Krabat	'Die Freundin von Tonda' Lives in Schwarzkollm, has to die because the miller gets to know her name.			
the miller	'Der Lehrling' Brings the ring to Kantorka.			
Juro	'Die Hauptperson' Is the leading character.			
Lyschko	'Das Mädchen' Lives in Schwarzkollm, falls in love with Krabat.			
Tonda protection.	'Der Koch' Only pretends to stutter and to be stupid for			

Activity 2

Test your understanding of what happened in the film

Depending on your level of German there is a choice of tests you can do. There is an easy multiple choice test and a slightly harder one in German and one in English. You can also try and do all three and see how you get on.

Test	in German LEVEL 1			
1	Wie lange ist Krabat in der Mühle?	ein Jahr	zwei Jahre	drei Jahre
2	Wer ist Tonda?	Krabats Freund	der Koch	der Meister
3	Wo ist die Mühle?	in Weißkollm	in Grünkollm	in Schwarzkollm
4	Wer kocht in der Mühle?	der Meister	eine Frau	Juro
5	Wen liebt Krabat?	keinen	Worschula	Kantorka
6	Wer stirbt nach einem Jahr?	Lyschko	Staschko	Tonda
7	Wen trifft Krabat zu Ostern?	den Teufel	Kantorka	seine Mutter
8	Wie kann Krabat fliegen?	als Schwan	als Taube	als Rabe
9	Wie viele Lehrlinge hat der Meister?	zehn	zwölf	fünfzehn
10	Mit wem hat der Meister einen Pakt?	Lyschko	dem Teufel	Tonda

Test	in German LEVEL 2								
1	Mit wie vielen Freunden zieht Krabat übers Land?	e	ein Freund		zwei			drei	
2	Von welchen Tieren träumt Krabat?		Schwäne		Tauben			Raben	
3	Wer wird Krabats erster Freund?		_yschko		Tonda			der Mei	ister
4	Wann trifft Krabat zum ersten Mal Kantorka?	a	am Dreikön	nigstag	Ostern			Weihna	chten
5	In welcher Kunst wird Krabat unterrichtet?	I	esen		schwar	ze Magie		kochen	
6	Mit wem hat der Meister einen Pakt?		dem Bürge	rmeister	Kantork	a		dem Te	ufel
7	Wer stirbt nach Krabats erstem Jahr in der Mühle?		der Meister	r	Lyschko)		Tonda	
8	Wer wird Krabats zweiter Freund?		Juro		der Mei	ster		keiner	
9	Wie viele Jahre lebt Krabat in der Mühle?	e	eins		zwei			drei	
10	Wer befreit die Lehrlinge?	T	Tonda		der Mül	ler		Kantork	ка
	in English								
1	With how many friends does Krabat travel cross- country?		1			2			3
2	Which animals does he dream of?		SW	ans		pigeons			ravens
3	Who becomes Krabat's first friend in the mill?		Lys	schko		Tonda			der Meister
4	When does first meet Kantorka?		Epi	iphany		Easter			Christmas
5	In which arts is Krabat taught?		rea	ading		black magi	С		cooking
6	With whom did the master make a pact	?	the	e mayor		Kantorka			devil
7	Who dies after Krabat's first year in the mill?		de	r Meister		Lyschko			Tonda
8	Who becomes Krabat's second friend in the mill?		Jur	ro		der Meiste	r		nobody
9	How many years does Krabat stay in the mill?		1			2			3
10	Who releases the apprentices?		Tor	nda		the miller			Kantorka

Activities for the classroom

Activities after the film

Activity 3

Work on the order in which the scenes of the film appear

- 1. Cut out the pictures, scene descriptions and dates.
- 2. Put them in the correct order.
- 5. Glue them into the table.

Depending on your level of German there is a choice of English descriptions and dates or German descriptions and dates.

Pictures

















Descriptions in English	The master is waiting for the apprentices to come back.	The women of Schwarzkollm light the candles.
The apprentices scrape ice off the mill.	The Krabat and Kantorka leave the mill.	Preparations for the night before Easter.
Soldiers attack Schwarzkollm.	Krabat travels cross-country.	Tonda and Krabat spend the night outside.
:	<u>;</u>	; ;·····
Dates in English	Night before Easter 1646	Easter 1647
Dates in English Beginning 1646	Night before Easter 1646 Winter 1646	Easter 1647 Day before Easter 1646

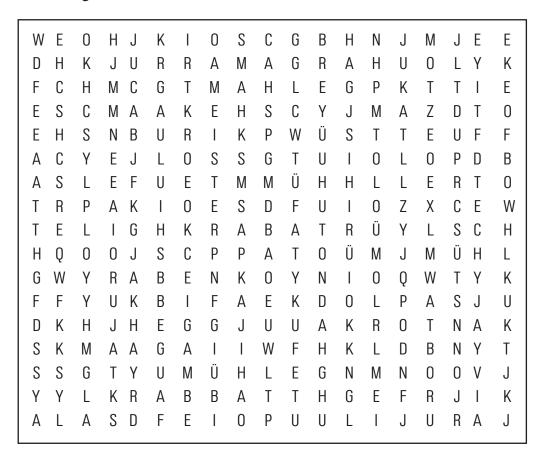
Descriptions in German	Der Meister wartet auf die Lehrlinge.	Die Frauen von Schwarzkollm zünden die Kerzen an.
Die Lehrlinge kratzen Eis von der Mühle.	Krabat und Kantorka verlassen die Mühle.	Vorbereitung auf die Osternacht
Soldaten überfallen Schwarzkollm.	Krabat wandert übers Land.	Tonda und Krabat schlafen draußen.
	: :	: :
Dates in German	Nacht vor Ostern 1646	Ostern 1647
Anfang 1646	Winter 1646	Tag vor Ostern 1646
Sommer 1646	Ostern 1646	Ende 1647

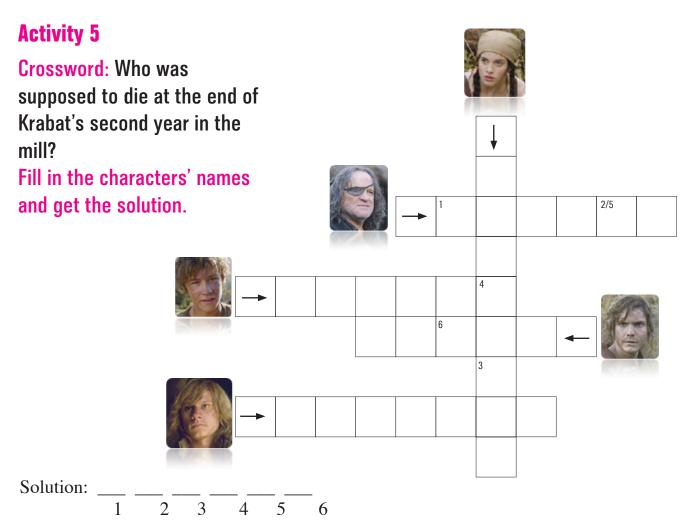
Picture	Scene Description	Date
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Picture	Scene Description	Date
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Word search: Find the following words and names.

KRABAT
TONDA
MEISTER
MÜHLE
TEUFEL
LYSCHKO
JURO
KANTORKA
RABE
MAGIE





Describe Krabat's character.

Take a **blue pen** and mark Krabat's character at the beginning of the film.

Take a **red pen** and mark Krabat's character at the end of the film.

Which differences can you see?

Compare with your partner's work:

Discuss your answers.

Before working on this exercise, you should make sure you know the meaning of the German words below.

Charaktereigenschaft	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	Charaktereigenschaft
kindlich								erwachsen
zurückhaltend								neugierig
gehorsam								ungehorsam
mutig								ängstlich
risikobereit								vorsichtig
nicht verliebt								verliebt
willensstark								willensschwach
klug								dumm

Description of weather

The weather is very important in the film. It symbolizes the characters' mood and forecasts doom and danger. The weather in the film is also typical for German seasons.

A. Revise your German weather vocabulary. Fill in the German descriptions for the weather.

Es ist neblig. Es ist (sehr) kalt. Es ist (sehr) warm.

Es regnet. Es ist bewölkt. Die Sonne scheint.

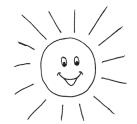
Es gewittert. Es ist windig. Es schneit.



Es regnet.







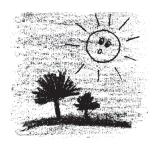












B. Try to remember and describe the weather in the following scenes – if you can not remember anymore guess what the weather should be like to underline the meaning of the scene.

Scene (time)	Description	Weather
Example (0:02:20)	Krabat is dreaming of the 11 ravens and hears the voice of the master.	Es ist sehr kalt, es schneit und es ist windig.
Scene 1 (0:04:20)	Krabat arrives at the mill.	
Scene 2 (0:10:30)	Krabat's first day at the mill.	
Scene 3 (0:45:10)	Krabat gets the super power and his wound is healing.	
Scene 4 (0:45:10)	Soldiers attack Schwarzkollm.	
Scene 5 (1:02:30)	The apprentices bury Tonda.	
Scene 6 (1:20:40)	Krabat and Juro arrive at the mill on Easter Sunday morning in Krabat's second year at the mill.	
Scene 7 (1:23:10)	Krabat gives Kantorka the ring.	
Scene 8 (1:45:15)	Krabat leaves the mill.	

Creative Writing

The author of Krabat once said in an interview that this story is about all young people who come into contact with power and its trappings.

So what about you? How would your life change if you got a super power like Krabat?

The film also points out that everything in the world has its price. The apprentices have to pay for the temptation of the super power with their liberty and life.

a) Do young people today encounter similar temptations? b) What is the price for the temptations you have in mind?						

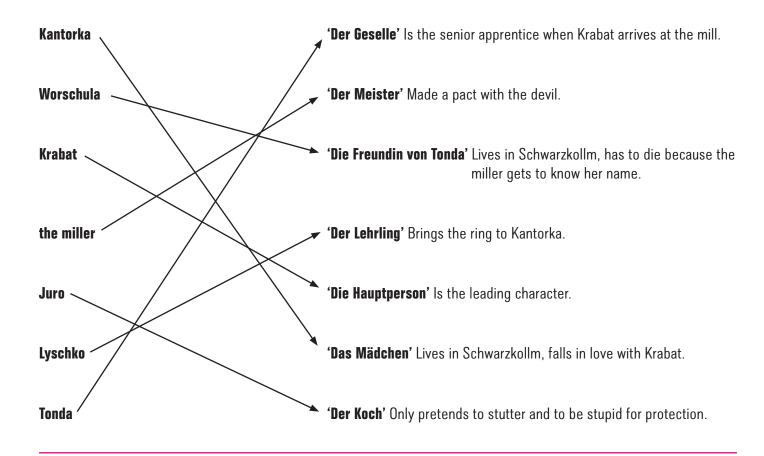
Answers & Solutions

Activities after the film

Activity 1

Characters in the film

Connect the character with the correct description as shown in the example.



Activity 2 Test your understanding of what happened in the film

Multiple Choice Test - Basic Level

1	Wie lange ist Krabat in der Mühle?	ein Jahr	🔀 zwei Jahre	drei Jahre
2	Wer ist Tonda?		der Koch	der Meister
3	Wo ist die Mühle?	in Weißkollm	in Grünkollm	in Schwarzkollm
4	Wer kocht in der Mühle?	der Meister	eine Frau	✓ Juro
5	Wen liebt Krabat?	keinen	Worschula	
6	Wer stirbt nach einem Jahr?	Lyschko	Staschko	➣ Tonda
7	Wen trifft Krabat zu Ostern?	den Teufel		seine Mutter
8	Wie kann Krabat fliegen?	als Schwan	als Taube	🔀 als Rabe
9	Wie viele Lehrlinge hat der Meister?	zehn	xwölf zwölf	fünfzehn
10	Mit wem hat der Meister einen Pakt?	Lyschko	🔀 dem Teufel	Tonda

Mul	tiple Choice Test - Intermediate in Englis	h							
1	Mit wie vielen Freunden zieht Krabat übers Land?		eins	\boxtimes	zwei			drei	
2	Von welchen Tieren träumt Krabat?		Schwäne		Tauben			Raben	
3	Wer wird Krabats erster Freund?		Lyschko		Tonda			der Mei	ster
4	Wann trifft Krabat zum ersten Mal Kantorka?		am Dreikönigstag	\times	Ostern			Weihna	chten
5	In welcher Kunst wird Krabat unterrichtet?		lesen	\bowtie	schwar	ze Magie		kochen	
6	Mit wem hat der Meister einen Pakt?		dem Bürgermeiste	r 🔲	Kantork	ка	\ge	dem Te	ufel
7	Wer stirbt nach Krabats erstem Jahr in der Mühle?		der Meister		Lyschk)	\boxtimes	Tonda	
8	Wer wird Krabats zweiter Freund?	\boxtimes	Juro		der Mei	ster		keiner	
9	Wie viele Jahre lebt Krabat in der Mühle?		eins	\bowtie	zwei			drei	
10	Wer befreit die Lehrlinge?		Tonda		der Mül	ler	\times	Kantork	ка
Mul 1	tiple Choice Test - Intermediate in Germ With how many friends does Krabat	an							
	travel cross- country?		<u></u> 1		\sim	2			3
2	Which animals does he dream of?		swans			pigeons		\succeq	ravens
3	Who becomes Krabat's first friend in the mill?		Lyschko		\bowtie	Tonda			der Meiste
4	When does first meet Kantorka?		Epiphany		\times	Easter			Christmas
5	In which arts is Krabat taught?		reading		\times	black magi	С		cooking
6	With whom did the master make a pact	?	the mayor			Kantorka		\times	devil
7	Who dies after Krabat's first year in the mill?		der Meiste	er		Lyschko		\boxtimes	Tonda
8	Who becomes Krabat's second friend in the mill?		⊠ Juro			der Meister	r		nobody
9	How many years does Krabat stay in the mill?		□ 1		\boxtimes	2			3
10	Who releases the apprentices?		Tonda			the miller		\times	Kantorka



Krabat is travelling crosscountry

Beginning 1646



The apprentices are scraping ice off the mill.

Winter 1646



Preparation for the night before Easter.

Day before Easter 1646



Tonda and Krabat are spending the night outside.

Night before Easter 1646



The women of Schwarzkollm are lighting the candles.

Easter 1646



Soldiers are attacking Schwarzkollm.

Summer 1646



The master is waiting for the apprentices to come back.

Easter 1647



Krabat and Kantorka are leaving the mill.

End of 1647



Krabat wandert über's Land.

Anfang 1646



Die Lehrlinge kratzen Eis von der Mühle.

Winter 1646



Vorbereitung auf die Osternacht.

Tag von Ostern 1646



Tonda und Krabat schlafen draußen.

Nacht vor Ostern 1646



Die Frauen von Schwarzkollm zünden die Kerzen an.

Ostern 1646



Soldaten überfallen Schwarzkollm.

Sommer 1646



Der Meister wartet auf die Lehrlinge.

Ostern 1647



Krabat und Kantorka verlassen die Mühle.

Ende 1647

Activity 4

Word search: Find the following words and names.

KRABAT	W	E	0	Н	J	K	ı	0	S	С	G	В	Н	N	J	М	J	E	Е
	D	Н	K	J	U	R	R	Α	М	Α	G	R	Α	Н	U	0	L	Υ	Κ
TONDA	F	С	Н	M	C	G	T	M	Α	Н	L	Ε	G	Р	K	T	T		Ε
MEISTER	Ε	S	C	M	Α	Α	K	Ε	Н	S	C	Υ	J	М	Α	Z	D	T	0
WILIGILII	Ε	Н	S	N	В	U	R	1	K	Р	W	Ü	S	T	T	Ε	U	F	F
MÜHLE	Α	С	Υ	Ε	J	L	0	S	S	G	T	U	I	0	L	0	Р	D	В
	Α	S	L	Ε	F	U	Ε	T	M	M	Ü	Н	Н	L	L	Ε	R	T	0
TEUFEL	Т	R	Р	Α	K	I	0	Е	S	D	F	U	I	0	Z	Χ	C	E	W
	Т	E	L	-1	G	Н	K	R	Α	В	Α	T	R	Ü	Υ	L	S	C	Н
LYSCHKO	Н	Q	0	0	J	S	С	Р	Р	Α	T	0	Ü	M	J	М	Ü	Н	L
JURO	G	W	Υ	R	A	В	Е	N	K	0	Υ	N	I	0	Q	W	T	Υ	K
30110	F	F	Υ	U	K	В	I	F	Α	E	K	D	0	L	Р	Α	S	J	U
KANTORKA	D	K	Н	J	Н	E	G	G	J	U	U	Α	K	R	0	T	N	Α	K
	S	K	M	A	A	G	Α		ı	W	F	Н	K	L	D	В	N	Υ	T
RABE	S	S	G	T	Y	U	M	U	Н	L	E	G	N	M	N	0	0	٧	J
	Υ	Y	L	K	R	A	В	В	A	T	T	Н	G	E	F	R	J		K
MAGIE	Α	L	A	S	D	F	E	I	0	Р	U	U	L	I	J	U	R	A	J



Crossword: Who was supposed to die at the end of Krabat's second year in the mill? Fill in the characters' names and get the solution.

Solution: MERTEN

Solution: ____ 1 2 3 4 5 6



Describe Krabat's character.

This is only one possible solution. Other solutions are possible and can be discussed in the classroom.

Charaktereigenschaft	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	Charaktereigenschaft
kindlich			X				X	erwachsen
zurückhaltend						X	X	neugierig
gehorsam					X		X	ungehorsam
mutig	X			X				ängstlich
risikobereit	X			X				vorsichtig
nicht verliebt	X						X	verliebt
willensstark	X		X					willensschwach
klug		X		X				dumm

Description of weather

The weather is very important in the film. It symbolizes the characters' mood and forecasts doom and danger. The weather in the film is also typical for German seasons.

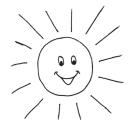
A. Revise your German weather vocabulary. Fill in the German descriptions for the weather.



Es regnet



Es ist bewölkt



Die Sonne scheint



Es gewittert



Es ist windig



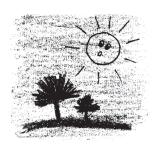
Es schneit



Es ist (sehr) kalt



Es ist (sehr) warm



Es ist neblig

Avtivity 7.B.

This is only one possible solution. Other solutions are possible too.

Scene (time)	Description	Weather
Example (0:02:20)	Krabat is dreaming of the 11 ravens and hears the voice of the master.	Es ist sehr kalt, es schneit und es ist windig.
Scene 1 (0:04:20)	Krabat arrives at the mill.	Es ist kalt und neblig.
Scene 2 (0:10:30)	Krabat's first day at the mill.	Es ist sehr kalt.
Scene 3 (0:45:10)	Krabat gets the super power and his wound is healing.	Es ist warm und die Sonne scheint.
Scene 4 (0:45:10)	Soldiers attack Schwarzkollm.	Es ist bewölkt.
Scene 5 (1:02:30)	The apprentices bury Tonda.	Es ist sehr kalt und windig.
Scene 6 (1:20:40)	Krabat and Juro arrive at the mill on Easter Sunday morning in Krabat's second year at the mill.	Es regnet und es gewittert.
Scene 7 (1:23:10)	Krabat gives Kantorka the ring.	Es ist warm.
Scene 8 (1:45:15)	Krabat leaves the mill.	Es ist kalt und bewölkt.