

River

This story is full of cross-references to many topics we have covered while reading 'Olive Kitteridge'. Let's see which you come up with.

- 5 bald - without hair
p. 313
slouch - *sich lümmeln*, may be. The opposite is to stand up straight.
furtiveness - we've had this word so often in the course of the book, and yet I can't imagine a grown man as he is depicted here, being furtive. But he doesn't look at people.
- 10 obnoxious - unpleasant

p. 314 apt - they often had....
to grate = *reiben* (of cheese, for instance), so if something grates on you it gives you a very uncomfortable feeling. The word is often used for women with a very high voice.
- 15 A sense of entitlement - people who behave as if they think that everything belongs to them or that they should have privileges. (A 'woke' word.)
So a grating sense of entitlement means that these people very much get on your nerves. I suspect it is a synonym for '*besser Wessi*'.
aloof = staying at a distance, usually meaning 'higher' or above other people.
- 20 p. 317 nippy - the frost nips you - *kneift*
shrivel - get smaller because it is drying out (or because you fried it too long)
- p. 318 squawk - the noise made by a hen
- 25 honk (as when a car driver is impatient)
viscerally - instinctively, intuitively
- p. 319 timorous - easily afraid
p. 320 amble - walk in a really relaxed manner. I suppose it is the opposite of march.
30 (What is *Passgang*?) (cf p. 329 Jack's ambling stride. Stride = *Schritt*)
puzzlement - not understanding
p. 322 English speakers say to ladybirds (*Marienkäfer*): Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home, your house is on fire and your children are gone. (And sadly I don't know the origin.)
- 35 p. 327 nitwit = *Dummkopf* (etc). No longer p.c. It comes from the opinion of the German-speaking Americans (or Dutch?) of the newly arrived Americans (immigrants) - who *nichtswissen* (towards the end of the 19th century if my memory serves me correctly).
- 40 p. 329 shallow - this word that German does not have - the opposite of deep
We've often talked about 'sophisticated', so here we are again :-)
- p. 331 Ducky - I have no idea! Dict offers : *entzückend*. So be it.
- 45 brat - *Göre*
to the manor born = thinking one is highly born, above other people. (manor = *Gutshaus*)

50 p. 333 Little Red Hen - A [hen](#) living on a farm finds some wheat and decides to make bread with it. She asks the other farmyard animals to help her plant it, but they refuse. The hen then harvests and mills the wheat into flour before baking it into bread; at each stage she again asks the animals for help, but they still refuse. Finally, with her task complete, the hen asks who will help her eat the bread. This time the animals eagerly accept, but the hen refuses, stating that no one helped her with her work and decides to eat the bread herself. (Wikipedia) Not to be confused with 'Chicken Little' and 'the sky is falling in' which I was my mistake.

55 p. 336 banter - *Neckerei, Geplänkel*. (Usually includes humour, I'd say)
sag - *abschlaffen, durchhängen*. Lots of things to do with old bodies.
platter - a big plate on which food (for everybody) is served.

60 p. 337 burdensome - *mühsam, belastend etc*
squander - *verschwenden, vergeuden etc*
baffle - confuse (of something you want to understand).