

Gliff pp. 34 - 44 (chapter 5) for reading and discussion (Group Three)

Bri - yes, we get a name on page 40 - is sitting on the floor, awake, while her sister is still asleep. We, as readers, get a fair amount of past information from her flashbacks, which help us to understand the society they are living in now.

Occasionally she thinks about the present and also makes plans, thinking about what she could do next.

During her flashbacks about what her mother says, e.g. about smartphones, you may wish there were inverted commas ("..."). You have to work out for yourself what she says.

What are Bri's plans : go back to the shop in order to...  
go back home in order to....

By the way, some reviews (*Rezensionen*) criticize Ali Smith, saying that she deals with old out-of-date problems. You can decide that yourselves!

p. 35

about the key-ring : 'now', 'in a past' - is there more than one past?

Who might the children be?

Bri knows their sister ('their' = he/she) very well, it seems. She would never praise her if she was listening. Look at the grammar : '...if I were to say....'.

p. 36

The sister seems to use modern speech : '*obvs you loser*' = obviously you (to Bri) are somebody who is always behindhand and the sister can play with words :  
con\_lomorate (a political statement?)

purport - to say, *behaupten*

Why is Bri constantly thinking about what is real and what is not? 'Unaltered'?

p. 37

Back to the present and the sister still being asleep.

Then back to wondering what is reality.....

7 lines from bottom: provided = *vorausgesetzt*

p. 38

Is Bri searching for comfort in the idea of 'real' children?

Plan B is to go back home.....

stonecrop = *Mauerpfeffer*, *scharfe Fettehenne*; campion = *Feuernelke*, *Leimkraut*, *Lichtnelke*, Latin : *silene*

p. 39 - about smartphones

liability : *Verpflichtung*, *Haftpflcht*, *Haftbarkeit*, *Bürde* (and more)

put up with - *dulden*

Does the mother, in your opinion, sum up the general discussion about smartphones correctly?

p. 40

thank/tank - presumably 'tank' has the association a) with aggression and b) with fuel

“The net is a reality with designs on general reality” = a reality that wants to change/attack/take over general reality  
So why doesn't the mother want her kids to have smartphones?  
And what does Bri find so attractive about them?

p. 41

How can history be useful?

Is the word 'social' a positive word for you?

Vindictive = *rachgierig*

(Discussion about the use of libraries also about our reference books at home, paper dictionaries)

behemoth = *Koloss, Ungeheur* (often used for conglomerates, Amazon etc.)

moth = *Motte*

Suddenly Bri's thoughts return to the more immediate reality of her own home (at the beginning of the novel) Why should her home be empty like this one?

p. 42

Philosophical question : can we 'be' a word? (e.g. temporary)

Plan a 2) Go to the shop....

Pay-as-you-go-deal : *aufloadbare SIM-Karte*

Bri starts making a list. Does this person seem to you to be a practical, sensible kind of person? =

p. 43

Why does Bri want a weapon?

Why should some colours of bikes be faster than others?

penny farthing - a farthing was a quarter of a penny and as small as a cent piece (and had on it a picture of a wren - *Zaunkönig* - as the smallest bird on the smallest coin). A penny-farthing was a bike with a big wheel and a small wheel. I expect they were the same in Germany.

p. 44

Who else has put forward the idea of our having more than 5 senses?

Why is the printing so strange? Correspondences that were otherwise invis(ible)?

How has the house-key got into the door?