



## Abstract

*Der Struwwelpeter* is a culturally significant children's book in Germany. Written by Dr. Heinrich Hoffman, a children's psychologist, in 1845, the book warns young children of the dangers of cruelty and disobedience. While the book is intended for children, many of the illustrations are graphic depictions of the consequences of misbehavior. These stories often feature the great injury or death of several children. This has led many English scholars to label *Der Struwwelpeter* as barbaric and unfit for children. However, many German speakers reflect on the book fondly. This poster seeks to explore the difference in interpretation of *Der Struwwelpeter* between cultures.

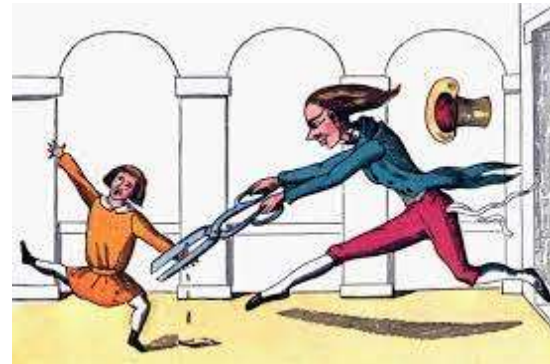
## Der Struwwelpeter English and German Interpretations Differences

### German Interpretation

While some German parents feel these stories disturbing, the parents who did read these stories to their children found them useful. It was an easy way to show good behavior, and some ridiculous consequences for bad behavior. Children are smart, and can understand that these stories are fictional like any other story. As for issues of race and gender, most children do not know of these issues and might not question the modern negative context that burden adults.

### English Interpretation

The English interpretation of *Der Struwwelpeter* is very much the opposite of the Germans' view. English scholars and parents disapprove of the book and its message. To them it is perceived as very barbaric and too graphic for children. With children's fingers being cut off and people dying as some examples in the book, English parents have withheld their children from viewing the book. The racial and gender issues in the book also do not help the case to show to children. After research it is easy to see the differences in the two cultures based off of the opinions on these short stories.



## Conclusion

*Der Struwwelpeter* is a culturally significant children's book in Germany. Written by Dr. Heinrich Hoffman, a children's psychologist, in 1845, the book warns young children of the dangers of cruelty and disobedience. While the book is intended for children, many of the illustrations are graphic depictions of the consequences of misbehavior. These stories often feature the great injury or death of several children. This has led many English scholars to label *Der Struwwelpeter* as barbaric and unfit for children. However, many German speakers reflect on the book fondly. This poster seeks to explore the difference in interpretation of *Der Struwwelpeter* between cultures.

## References

- "Der Struwwelpeter (Slovenly Peter) [Children's Book]," in *Children and Youth in History*, Item #328, <https://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh/items/show/328> (accessed April 10, 2021).
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