

**QR LESSONS ON MAXIM BILLER**  
**German 41W – Migrant Voices in German Literature**  
**Elena Mancini**

DAY 1:

1. Assign Maxim Biller short story, “Seven Attempts at Loving” for homework alongside pretest. Explain to students that pretest is based on a close reading and comprehension of the story. The grades on these assignments go toward the homework portion of their final grade.

DAY 2:

2. Discuss story in class.
  - a) Begin by asking students give recap of the plot.
  - b) What did the plot reveal about the characters’ lives and personalities.
  - c) Get students to piece together the setting and the context.
3. Introduce Biller – give biographical details; discuss his migrant status in German literature.
  - a) Ask students whether they can identify some literary markers of migrant status within the text
4. Review pretest together.
  - a) Use timeline questions as an opportunity to discuss the cultural and historical context of the story.
  - b) Use ratios present in the story to discuss gender relations and majority and minority discourses.
5. Assign Maxim Biller short story “My Name Was Singer” and “post-test” for homework. The grades on these assignments go toward the homework portion of their final grade.

DAY 3:

5. Discuss story in class.
  - a) Have students give a recap of the plot.
  - b) Ask students what the plot reveals about the main characters of the story.

- c) What similarities and differences do they find between the characters of the first story and the second one?
- d) Introduce Isaac Bashevis Singer
- e) Lead discussion about parallels between main character of story and Bashevis Singer

6. Review post-test in class

- a) Use timeline questions as an opportunity to discuss the cultural and historical context of the story.
- b) Use ratios present in the story to discuss gender relations and majority and minority discourses.