

*Part I: Reading and Writing***Kiko Itasaka – “Prince George’s Birthday Heralds Rebirth of Britain’s Monarchy”**Text:

LONDON – When chubby-cheeked Prince George blows out his birthday candles on Tuesday, Britain will be celebrating a whole lot more than the future king’s first year of royalty. Since the swaddled infant was first thrust into public eye and carried out of London’s St. Mary’s Hospital, he’s attained superstar status – and sparked a rebirth for Britain’s royal family.

5 “Prince George has signaled the start of a new era for the royal family, and I think he has engendered a lot more interest in the royal family, especially from youngsters,” said Camilla Tominey, royal commentator for the Sunday Express newspaper. “The whole scene has been reinvigorated by William, Kate, Prince Harry and now baby George, because he represents the future.”

10 That future has been clouded in recent years, whether by the scandal accompanying Prince Charles’ affair, the death of Diana – dubbed “the people’s princess” - and the prolonged, vocal attacks by republicans who challenge the sanctity and sanity of a monarchy. The tone towards Britain’s royals first started to shift with the marriage of Prince William to Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge. Young, fresh-faced and modern, the couple represented a new face of the
15 monarchy. Then along came George.

His first brush with stardom came when hundreds of cameras captured the newborn’s exit from the posh Lindo wing of the hospital, where media had camped out for weeks to await the third in line to the throne’s arrival. “The fact that he made the cover of Vanity Fair before age one is certainly impressive” That swaddle – and George’s subsequent outfit choices – have
20 tended to quickly sell out in stores, cementing the tot’s status as a tiny titan of fashion. Retailers have given his influence a name: the “George effect.” [...]

Since then, George’s every move has been closely watched. The baby has helped humanize the royals, with his parents endeared themselves to mothers and fathers the world over by sharing stories of their tot’s tantrums and toy-stealing. Every royal play date or romper
25 featuring George draws international oohs and aahs, every teeter and wobble raising the question: Is the future king walking yet?

The baby already has graced the covers of Hello, People, and Vanity Fair magazines – the last declared George “the world’s most eligible infant.”

30 “The birth of Prince George has given new zest, new vitality to the monarchy,” says Robert Jobson, royal editor of the London Evening Standard. “The fact that he made the cover of Vanity Fair before age one is certainly impressive, and shows you that the monarchy is certainly relevant to the younger generation. When you have a queen who is 88 and the Duke of Edinburgh who is in his 90s, they need that new injection.”

While still in diapers, George also has helped ease some touchier matters of royal
35 diplomacy. Accompanying his parents on an overseas trip to New Zealand and Australia earlier this year, George earned yet another nickname – “the republican slayer.”

The nickname was a reference to Australia’s republican movement, which does not want a British monarch as the country’s head of state. After the royal visit – with Oz left charmed by William’s tales of how George had taken to chewing on his gift of a cuddly wombat toy –
40 opinion polls showed greater support for the monarchy.

“The Australians dubbed Prince George the republican slayer because any sentiment really washed away when they all saw this unbelievably adorable chubby cheeked boy looking feisty and ready to go,” Tominey explained.

Vocabulary:

- 1 **chubby** – slightly fat in a way that people usually find attractive
- 3 **to swaddle** – to wrap a baby tightly in a piece of cloth
- 8 **to reinvigorate** – to give new energy or strength to somebody
- 11 **prolonged** – continuing for a long time
- 12 **sanctity** – the state of being holy
sanity – the a state of being sensible and reasonable
- 21 **retailer** – a person or business that sells goods to the public
- 23 **to endear somebody** – to make somebody/yourself popular
- 24 **tot** – (informal) a very young child
romper – a piece of clothing worn by a baby, that covers the body and legs
- 36 **slayer** – murderer, assassin
- 42 **feisty** – strong, determined and not afraid of arguing with people

Sources:

Kiko Itasak, "Prince George's Birthday Heralds Rebirth of Britain's Monarchy", *NBC News*, 21 July 2014 (577 words);
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/prince-georges-birthday-heralds-rebirth-britains-monarchy-n160951> (retrieved November 2017).

Rick McKee, „Royal Baby“, *The Augusta Chronicle, GA*, 23.07.2013;
<https://www.caglecartoons.com/viewimage.asp?ID={7EC24B9A-BED7-4134-A466-A6E6C1BB8C08}>
 (retrieved November 2017)

Assignments:**1) Comprehension**

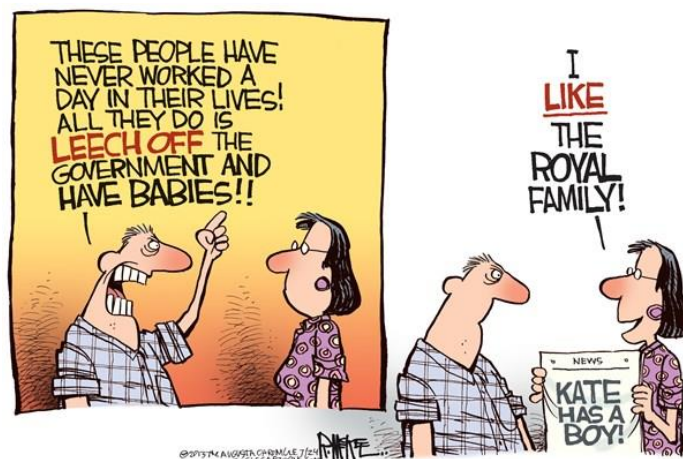
Summarize what Kiko Itasaka writes about the British monarchy.

2) Analysis

Name the type of the given newspaper article and outline the train of thought. Analyse the author's aim with respect to the most striking stylistic devices she uses to get her message across. Do not forget to refer to the text and to quote from it.

3) Comment

Have a look at the cartoon. Imagine you are the man in this cartoon and you want to convince your wife of the redundancy of the monarchy. On the basis of what you have learned in class write a monologue of the man in the cartoon.



Part II: Mediation**Alan Posener: „Worum es der Queen bei ihrem Besuch wirklich geht“**

Ein Riesenprogramm mutet sich Queen Elizabeth II. an ihrem ersten Besuchstag in Berlin zu. Obwohl der Inhalt ihrer Gespräche geheim bleibt, ist ihre Botschaft deutlich.

[...] Das war ein anstrengendes Pensum an diesem ersten, wichtigsten Tag des Staatsbesuchs – erst recht für eine Frau, die auf die 90 zugeht.

- 5 Und dabei immer lächeln, lächeln, lächeln. Hände schütteln, nette Nichtigkeiten sagen, zum wievielten Mal eigentlich, im wievielten Land? „God save the Queen“, „Präsentiert das Gewehr!“ Kameras, Mikrofone, Promis und Möchtegernpromis; und wenn Ihre Majestät mal aufs Klo muss, dann muss das eben bis zur vorgesehenen Protokollpause warten, und auch da wird sie ja überwacht. „Privat“ ist ein Wort, das die Königin nicht kennt. Promis können
- 10 Paparazzi ohrfeigen. Die Königin nicht.

[...] Sicher ist, dass kein Brite seinem Hund das Leben zumuten würde, das er seinem Monarchen abverlangt. [...]

In diesen Tagen werden viele bedeutende und unbedeutende Menschen mehr oder weniger bedeutende Dinge sagen. Ein Mensch aber wird wenig sagen und sich auf Phrasen beschränken:

15 Elizabeth II., durch die Grace Gottes Königin von Großbritannien und Nordirland, Oberhaupt des Commonwealth, Verteidigerin des Glaubens und so weiter. Weder persönliche Bemerkungen noch politische Stellungnahmen sind ihre erlaubt. Sie hält keine Ruckreden, betrachtet sich nicht als Lehrerin, sondern als Dienerin ihres Volkes. Sie ist die personifizierte Staatsräson, „und die schweigt“.

- 20 Dennoch ist die Aussage dieses Staatsbesuchs deutlich. Elizabeths Deutschlandreise ist eine sorgfältig durchkomponierte Choreografie zum Thema „Deutschland braucht Großbritannien in Europa“. Vom Besuch bei Bundeskanzlerin Angela Merkel zusammen mit Premierminister David Cameron bis zum Gang über den Pariser Platz, von der „Queen’s Lecture“ über den Besuch der Frankfurter Paulskirche bis hin zum Schluss- und Höhepunkt des Besuchs, dem
- 25 Rundgang durch das von der britischen Armee befreite KZ Bergen-Belsen: immer geht es um Demokratie, Freiheit und Weltoffenheit, für die Großbritannien wie kein zweites europäisches Land steht.

Assignment:

The Queen is on a state visit to Germany – and British and German newspapers want to know why. You and your British partner school are exchanging newspaper articles from both countries on this question.

You send them the newspaper article above and write about it in an email of about 150 words, focusing on two questions:

- a) How is the Queen portrayed?
- b) According to the newspaper, what is her state visit to Germany all about?

Source:

Alan Posener, „Worum es der Queen bei ihrem Besuch wirklich geht“, *Die Welt*, 24.06.2015 (304 words);

<https://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article143026292/Worum-es-der-Queen-bei-ihrem-Besuch-wirklich-geht.html> (retrieved November 2017).

Good Luck!