

## What's so funny? – An earthworm as pet

*Wissen macht Ah!* (*Knowledge Makes You Go Ah!*) is a knowledge-based programme in which the two presenters, Ralph and Shary, get to the bottom of unanswered questions. Using short clips, they respond to questions like “Where do fat dormice sleep?” or “Why do woollen caps itch?”.

The earthworm's characteristics are explained in one clip. It is the story of Merle and her new pet, the earthworm Paul. Merle makes a fancy home for her earthworm, in a cage with a bed and a table. But, strangely enough, the animal does not feel comfortable there. It always escapes to the near-by flowerpot. This is why Merle goes to see a professor for advice. He explains that worms like living in soil, eat compost and feel best surrounded by lots of other worms.



Screenshots taken from *Wissen macht Ah!* (WDR) for academic purposes

### *What's so funny about it?*

*“She made a toilet and a wash-bowl and a bed for it, but sometimes it went out of its cage to the plant and looked for something to nibble.”* (Girl)

*“Funny, because an earthworm is not really easy to handle as a pet.”* (Boy)

*“I found funny the whole story about the worm, especially how she furnished everything for it and it didn't want to go to bed. Then she brought it back to bed again and again and it came out again and again and later she found out that it needs soil.”* (Girl)

Quotes from group discussions in Germany with 6- to 9-year-olds in Munich