Kapitel 1
"Aller Anfang ist schwer" (pp. 10-12)

Getting Ready

1. What is meant by the expression "The first step is always the hardest"?
2. What sort of associations do you have with the phrase "In the beginning..."?

Getting Set

1. Skim the first two paragraphs of the text "Aller Anfang ist schwer" and make a list of English cognates / expressions you find.
2. Now skim the text up to the point where the poem begins ("Im Studierzimmer") and note the number of times the word "Anfang" occurs in the text.
3. Which German-English cognate, that is likewise a synonym for "Anfang," also occurs more than one time in the text?
4. How do you interpret the text's title, "Aller Anfang ist schwer?"

Read!

Find the answers to the following questions:
1. What's the name of the theater play discussed in the text?
2. Where does the scene from the play take place?
3. What is the subject of the protagonist's monologue?

Note: Translations of rhymed poetic texts must capture not only the meaning and sense of the original, but also the rhythm, tone, and rhyme scheme of the original.

Notes and Further Reading

1. Gospel according to Saint John: fourth book of the New Testament; this account of the life of Jesus is clearly set off from the other three Gospels. It opens with a prologue in which Jesus is identified with the Word.
   To read more:
   Das Evangelium nach Johannes: [http://www.bibel-online.net/buch/43.johannes/](http://www.bibel-online.net/buch/43.johannes/)

2. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), German poet, dramatist, novelist, and scientist. His art and thought culminate in his great dramatic poem Faust.
   To read more:
   Weimarer Goethe-Bibliographie online: [http://weias.ub.uni-weimar.de:8080/LNG=DU/DB=4.1/](http://weias.ub.uni-weimar.de:8080/LNG=DU/DB=4.1/)
For biography, bibliography, summaries and interpretations of Goethe's major works:
http://www.xlibris.de/Autoren/Goethe/Goethe-Bibliographie/Goethe-Bibliographie.htm

3. *Faust*: Dramatic poem by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. *Faust I* was published in 1808; *Faust II* in 1832, shortly after the author's death. Built on the Faust legend, Goethe's version has become one of the greatest poetic and philosophic works in world literature.
To read more: Faust Webseite: http://www.zum.de/Faecher/D/BW/gym/faust/