In this course we will look at the ways in which things appear in literature, with particular emphasis on lyric poetry and short prose texts. Single, concrete objects that appear mundane in our quotidian perception are transformed in surprising, sometimes unsettling ways in the texts we will read. We will also consider some of the philosophical questions that arise out of our contemplation of objects and our relationship to them. Readings will include texts by Goethe, Eduard Mörike, C.F. Meyer, Rilke, Kafka, Benjamin, Heidegger, Rolf Dieter Brinkmann, and Botho Strauß. We will be working on skills in reading, writing, and interpretation, as well as on building vocabulary. All readings and class discussion will be in German.