

Interview with Mrs. Sarinelli,
teacher of Italian at Fermi School
by Nachira Francesca and Vetere Gaia



1 - Why is it important to learn to respect other cultures?

Because they represent opportunities for discussion and dialogue and, therefore, growth.

2 - What prevents us from considering strangers worth of respect?

Mainly, there are two reasons:

the first is prejudice, the sneaky danger of considering different people as being inferior:
the second is the closed mentality, that sees the stranger as a thief of other's rights.

3 - Is it important to learn to pay mutual respect?

Of course. Respect is at the basis of interpersonal relationships and it should never fail, not even among individuals of the same nationality. In a school environment, we see that if the school is inclusive and welcoming, it manages to promote the values of solidarity and of dignity of the person

and sees diversity as a treasure. These are democratic values that are reminded us also by article 3 of our constitution: " All citizens have the same social dignity without distinction of sex, race, language, religion. [...] It is the task of the Republic to remove the economic and social obstacles, that limit, as a matter of fact, the freedom and the equality of citizens [...].

4 - Is it easy for a foreign boy to integrate in the host society?

It is easy if, as I said before, the schools are welcoming and inclusive. If the school and the society respect the values of pluralism and democracy, integration is easier. Because nowadays it is impossible to think of a society still full of prejudices and mentally closed.

5 - Is it better a closed society or a multiethnic one?

A multiethnic one, obviously. Because it widens our horizons, it opens our minds. I repeat that society must see diversity as a value, only in this way pacific cohabitation is possible.