**WHAT DO THE STUDENTS THINK ABOUT THE STEROTYPES**

**CLASSE 2 AA**

**Can you give a meaning for the word stereotype?**

It is the point of view that many people have on a place or about other people. It makes fun of a small group of people and it uses the caracteristics of that small group in order to mock a larger number of people. Stereotypes are usually about ethnic groups, politital ideologies, religious beliefs, social status, and people’s personality. There are other kind of stereotypes too, for example some of them are about how people celebrate their Feasts.

In my opinion stereotypes can be positive if they are on famous people having social prestige such as soccer players, singers or actors and actresses all good-looking becoming idols and myths.

I think that a stereotype takes palce when a person simply accepts a positive or a negative definition on something or someone and he/she uses it to describe people, places, situations without having done any personal and direct experience of it.

**In your opinion how a stereotype is created?**

According to me it depends on how one person or many poeple start to define other people just observing their behaviour which is different from their own one. Sometimes a description based on wicked actions or crimes starts to be shared like when we talk about gypsies that are called thieves beacause they don’t want to work and they steal to other people the things they need.

Stereotypes are common to all the people, they exist everywhere and they are about all domains; a specific judgment on a small group of people can become a general global idea on a place, for example. It becomesan easy vision to express about someone or something we don’t really know at all.

Stereotypes exist because we don’t think with our own mind and heart.

In my opizion a stereotype arises from a set idea on someone or something, it is a fixed judgment that is accepted without checking if it is true or not through a direct experiece.

Some stereotypes are also about gender inequality between man and woman such as the fact that women aren’t good at driving cars, or that men are better for certain jobs if compared to women.

**Which is the effect the stereotype can have on people?**

In most cases a stereotype is negative, it is like a mark that makes you get closer to something with an established opinion together with a passive attitude accepting what someone else has said because we trust him, or because he is an influent person or just because we are lazy and indifferent…

But if a stereotype is positive and it conferes positive qualities to something such as when we say that Swedish women are all beautiful, it can only make that person or the group we talk about happy.

**What is the antidote for stereotypes? How can you cure yourself from them?**

I think it is impossible to stop defining people, situation, places, behaviours, cultures, religions or politics. What we can do is trying to reduce stereotypes through knowledge and being curious about their culture, provenience and trying to guess why certain things are done or orgranized in a different way from the way we live, think, and do.

According to me we can heal ourselves from stereotypes by not judging the others, and by accepting that we are all human.

In my opinion we shaould all make our personal idea of wath is “the other part” experiencing it on our skin.

Travelling, knowing, experiencing can help changing our minds, but it only happens if you really want to know if an opinion is true or not.