

Gender stereotypes

Primary Lesson Plan



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Source

[Picture This](#)

Learning area

English

Level

Upper primary

Description

Picture This develops students' skills in viewing visual texts with critical understanding and appreciation. It provides brief explanations and a wide range of student activities. *Picture This* includes a large number of images, including sixteen full-colour pages, for student discussion and exploration. Chapter 3 of *Picture This* provides students with the opportunity to explore the process of stereotyping in visual and written texts. 'Gender Stereotypes' is one of a number of units from chapter 3.

Purpose

To encourage students to identify and challenge gender stereotyping.

Duration

Approximately 45 minutes

Possible outcomes

As a result of these activities students will be able to identify simple symbolic meanings in texts and discuss their purpose and meaning (Reading and Viewing, Contextual understanding outcome 3.6).

Materials required

- magazines for cutting up

Procedure

Explanation

Introduce the concept of gender stereotyping. Gender stereotyping refers to stereotyped images of males and females. Images of males and females are sometimes difficult to see as stereotypes because they are strongly connected with deep-seated beliefs about the roles of males and females in our society. Many people find it disturbing when these roles are questioned.

Activity 1: Thinking about gender stereotypes

Provide students with a copy of the table below which shows some common examples of gender stereotyping or ask students to copy it. For each example students are to decide:

- what ways of thinking are associated with the stereotyping
- what other possible ways of thinking there might be which are not shown in this example of stereotyping
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The first example has been completed to provide a model for students.

When they have finished students should swap their work with another student and compare answers.

Example of stereotyping	Way of thinking encouraged by this stereotype	Other possible ways of thinking not shown by the stereotype
1. Many advertisements show mothers serving meals to their families (but very few show fathers doing this).	These advertisements seem to suggest that mothers do all the housework and cooking, and really enjoy this.	Men should do more of the cooking. Some mothers hate doing housework.
2. Many newspaper photographs, films, advertisements and television programs show men engaged in physically active pastimes such as sport, rock-climbing or canoeing (but few show women doing these things).		
3. Many magazine photographs and advertisements show teenage girls grooming themselves such as putting on make-up, brushing their hair and generally worrying about their appearance (but few show teenage boys doing these things).		
4. Many television advertisements show young boys playing with action toys such as trucks and super-hero figures (but girls are not shown doing this).		

Activity 2: Breaking stereotypes

Not all images use stereotyping. This activity requires students to create a poster which shows the difference between stereotyped images and non-stereotyped images.

Students should form a group with two or three other students and choose one example of stereotyping from the table above. They should take a large sheet of paper and divide it into two columns. One column should be headed 'Stereotyped images' and the other 'Non-stereotyped images'. From a collection of magazines they are to cut out pictures and paste them in the appropriate column according to whether they think the pictures support the stereotype or not.

After students have finished they should display their posters for other students to see.