

LEARNING ABOUT BIASES

An educational story

Aim of the activity

The objective of the activity is to explore the idea of internalised and unconscious biases through a story about self-exploration. The story is mainly a supplementary material meant to help facilitate a more in-depth discussion of biases and media literacy.

Target audience

Teenagers (13-19 y. o.)

Amount of time required

30-60 minutes (+20 minutes to read story)

Instructions

Give students access to the story (either provide a digital version or hand out physical copies) and provide ample time for them to read it (ideally, the students should read the story ahead of the lesson). Afterwards, discuss the different ways prejudices and biases are present within the story, how they affect the characters and their relationships and how these issues are (not) confronted. Students should then try to come up with other examples of biases and their effects on people. These should be specific, e. g. personal experiences, other fictional situations or news stories. Choose 2-4 examples and discuss how the issues arising from these biases could be tackled.

Alternatively, the material can be given to students after a lesson on prejudice and biases as a way to encourage further reflection on these topics.