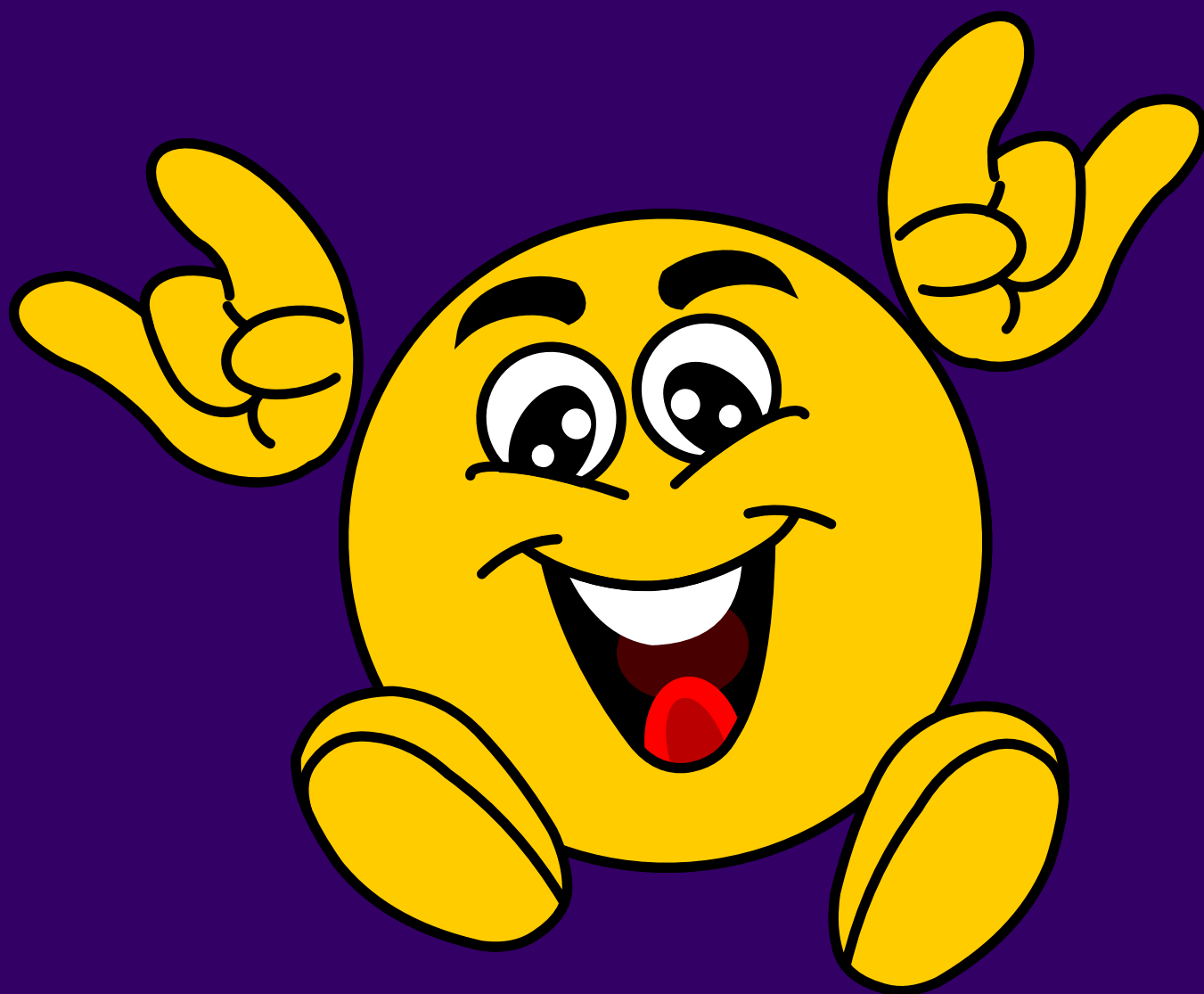


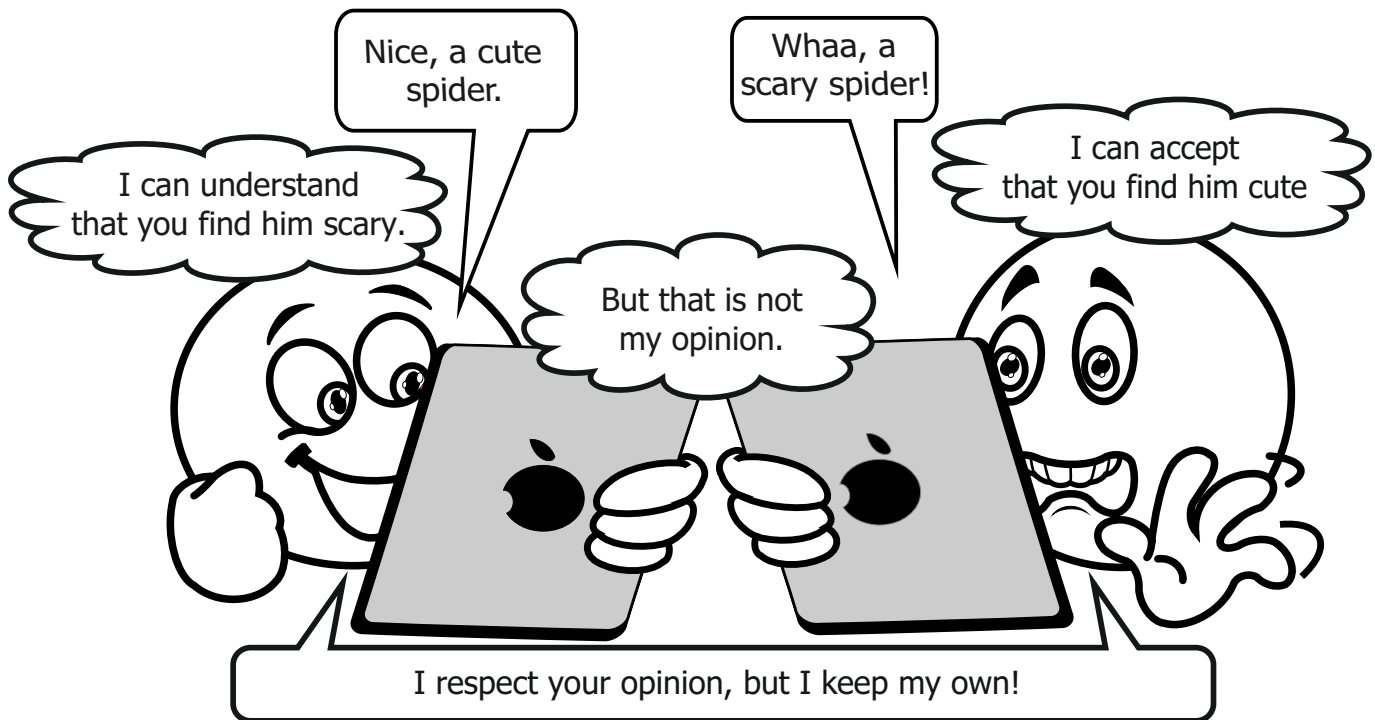
Be who you are!



Everyone is different

Everyone is different!

Everyone has a different perception of the same event or situation, positive or negative.



This creates mutual differences between people.

By understanding, accepting and respecting these mutual differences, people can live together.

Respect is understanding and accepting mutual differences. Being open to being being 'different' and appreciating the differences in people.

This does not mean you have to agree with each other. You can disagree, but respect each other's respect each other's opinions. People often think that if they respect someone's opinion, it immediately means they 'agree' with that person.

They are afraid that if they show respect their opinion will 'disappear', that they will no longer be be respected in their opinions.

But respecting someone's opinion is not the same as agreeing with them.

Accepting differences in religion, skin colour, orientation or opinion is respectful. Your religion, skin colour, orientation does not change because of it.

Owl or flamingo?

There was once a flamingo who woke up in the morning and said: 'It's going to be a beautiful day, the sun is shining and the sky is blue.'

An owl, sitting in the tree, said: 'What nonsense are you talking, it will be night, there is no sun at all and the sky is not blue.'

The flamingo then said: 'Surely I know it's getting day and surely I can see that the sky is blue. Look for yourself then!'

The owl looked around and said: 'You are crazy. I'm sure it's night and I think you are colour-blind, because the sky is not blue at all.'

The owl and the flamingo started arguing with each other until the owl said: 'I will prove to you that it is night, that the sky is black and that there is no sun. Come with me.'

The owl took the flamingo to a forest full of owls. He told the other owls that the flamingo thought it was dawn, that the sky was blue and the sun was shining. But all the owls said that it was becoming night, that the sky was not blue but black and that the sun was not shining. 'Let us sleep and stop this nonsense!' The owl said to the flamingo, 'Do you see now that I am right? Never say such nonsense again and go to sleep too.'

The flamingo thought: 'I am different, I am a rare bird that sometimes whistles at night, sometimes during the day. Preferably my own tune.' The owl should know that a flamingo is different from an owl. Everyone is different!

* Reflection

We get so much advice on how to live. What do you do with it?

Which advice do you follow?

Which advice do you listen to?

It will shape you into who and what you become and how you are in life!





A place of its own in the world

Physical

At birth, you are given a place of your own in the world. A place that you get to claim for yourself and that others have to take into account. This own place is 'physically' yours, by which we mean that your body needs space to live in this place. No one is allowed to take you.

Examples include:

- Someone deliberately bumps into you in passing.
- Someone takes his turn.
- Someone sits so wide that there is no room for you.
- Someone touches you in an annoying way.

Mentally

But equally important is that you also claim your own place 'mentally', that is, in your head. You are as important as any other human being. No one should, even if it is as a joke, say anything about or against you that you don't like. You have your opinion and your feelings and that should be taken into account by other people. If they don't, if they overstep your boundaries, then you have to do something about it. If you don't, they will take less and less account of you. You will start thinking that it is quite normal that you are not taken into account and that you are not so important. and that you are not that important. But every person is equally important, and all people have to take each other into account. Only when you consider yourself as important as someone else someone else, then you will stand up for yourself and become resilient. Being 'resilient' therefore means that you ensure that others do not cross your boundaries and that if they do, you do something about it.

Being resilient!

'Being resilient' or 'standing up for yourself', saying what you want or don't want, is often very difficult. Especially when you notice that bit by bit, someone is going further and further over your limits. The sooner you can stop them in this, the better it is. But of course, the situation may be such that that is very difficult.

Self-respect

Don't worry because you are different. Instead, be proud of that! That's what makes you unique! The accepting yourself as you are is the most respectful thing you can do for yourself. Daring stand up for your opinion will command respect. For example, you can say: 'I respect your point of view, but I see it differently! Do you disagree with me? That's fine! But can you respect point of view too?'

Dissenters



Everyone is different and that's a good thing. If we were all a copy of each other, we humans would never have come this far. Most people work and live in groups. As a group, we actually look for the similarities and thus the best and most productive performances.

In the group, it is precisely the creative and new ideas of dissenters that are needed to go further and to achieve better or faster performance. A group could perform better if one dissenters, the eccentrics, in the group appreciate their qualities.

A group of people (or your class) performs best if the group knows how to link all the different qualities of all individuals manage to link or forge together; this takes a good leader (teacher).

If Steve Jobs had been born in North Korea, would there be an iPad today?

Being able and daring to think freely, dream and take risks is important for the development of a group of people or society. People who don't try to fit in with the group at any cost in the hope of not being rejected.

You find eccentrics all around you. They resist day in, day out precisely against adapting to the average. They are the future. Society has interest in eccentrics. A society without eccentrics will not develop.

To conform is to adapt to the group. An eccentric does not conform to the rules of his environment.

Groups do this too: then the dissenters are accepted and the eccentric becomes an idol. Funny is it that people are shunned, condemned or bullied because of their behaviour or ideas and later, on the contrary, adored by the same people because of their behaviour or ideas. For the eccentric himself, it is often the most difficult, because the bigger the ideas, the more problematic often the social contact.

Think, for example, of Michael Jackson, Amy Winehouse, Albert Einstein, Salvador Dali, etc.

Do you have someone in your environment or at school who dares to dress, behave or express different behave differently or dare to express a different opinion? or nodig.

Everyone is different!

Thankfully, it would be very boring otherwise. But who are you and what place do you want to have in this world? What is your image? Is it accepted and can you accept it from others? Are you handsome, ugly, rich, poor, fat or thin, do you have caring and loving parents, are they impossible or divorced? Do you live in a rich and developed country or not? You are different, you are unique, you are ordinary, you are extreme, you are yourself. Fine! Everyone has their own unique personality. You have your own opinions, feelings and emotions. If you accept other people as they are and the other person respects you as you are, then you can live happily together. Being different does not have to mean that you are not accepted.

Through values and respect for each other, you get a pleasant society. But by no means everyone acts accordingly.

You can respect someone because of a heroic deed he has done or for his wealth, power qualities, achievements, age, etc. But if someone puts himself on a pedestal and thus commands respect, this can be accepted without perceiving it as respectful. If you do not accept or understand the differences between them, then another may find this disrespectful.

I have great respect for the striker of the football club, but when he spat in the opponent's face spit in his opponent's face, I found this disrespectful.

Who do you have a lot of respect for? _____

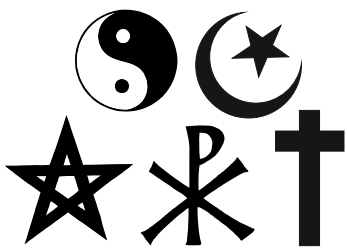
Why? _____

RESPECT

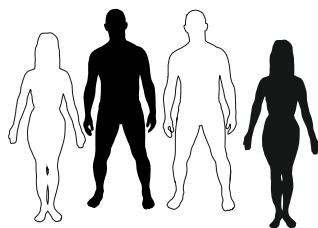
If you disagree, but
respect each other's opinion

RESPECT

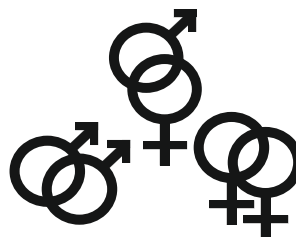
I get to be who I am!
And so can you!



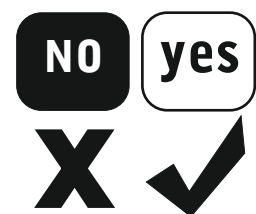
religion



skin colour



orientation



opinion

Climb this tree

A master was once asked to see which animal is the best in the world. The master chose ten different animals to test and said, 'To test you, you must all take the same test so that you all have the same chances to succeed! 'This is your test,' said the master: 'Climb that tree!'

- A monkey deftly climbs the tree and gets a 9.
- A cat climbs the tree very well but doesn't dare to get out and gets a 8.
- A Bear climbs the tree with great difficulty and gets an 7.
- A bird flies into the tree, but because this is not climbing and is against the rules it gets a 6.
- A snail also climbs the tree but takes too long so it gets a 5.
- A giraffe sticks his head through the tree but cannot climb this is wrong he gets a 4.
- A mole crawls under the tree and he gets a 3.
- A dog jumps up against the tree but doesn't climb so he gets a 2.
- A donkey doesn't know what to do he gets a 1.

Last up is the fish. It dares not come out of its bowl because it is afraid it will die die. So the fish is the worst animal says the master and gets a U. The master then says: 'We humans are better than animals and do not need to take the test'.

According to a wise jury of humans, every animal has taken the same test and therefore has had the same chances had the same chances to prove themselves. The monkey is the best animal and the fish the worst. The fish spends its life long sad and unhappy.

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

Albert Einstein

* Reflection

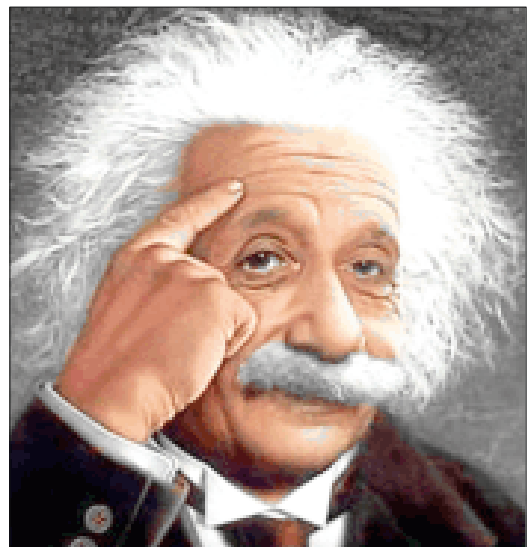
How could it be that the fish is unhappy?

With which test would he have got a 9?

Tests and grades are meant to see how good you are at that part or that you have become better at it.

It says nothing about how good you are as a person.

So never start comparing grades! And if you make another person sad by pointing out a bad grade to him or her, then you yourself have a fat fail for being kind!



THE RAINBOW



Each color is unique and beautiful



**I can be who I am and you can be you!
Together, we shine brighter than apart!**