

**Lesson 3:**  
**Challenging Stereotypes and**  
**Misconceptions**

LI: To recognise and challenge stereotypes and misconceptions.

## **Activity**

Listen carefully to the story I am about to read to you, as there will be a quiz at the end.

This story is about twins John and Ellen.



## Listen to the story

John and Ellen are twins. They are 16 years old. This is a story about their lives on a normal school day.

One twin gets up early at six in the morning, leaves the bed unmade and goes off to do a paper round. The other twin stays in bed until their dad knocks on the door at seven, gets up, makes the bed and goes down to the kitchen.

By this time, the twin that has done the paper round has come back to the house and the family has breakfast together. One twin makes their own toast and gets their own cereal. The other twin waits for the toast to be made by their dad.

The first lesson of the day is Maths with Mrs Brown. There is a Maths test today. One twin does really well on the test and the other makes a lot of mistakes.

The second lesson of the day is PE. Mr Edge lets pupils choose from three activities. One twin chooses football and the other twin chooses gymnastics.

During lunch break one twin goes out to the playing field to sunbathe and talk to friends. The other twin goes to the IT room and plays computer games.

After lunch, the twins have a cookery lesson. One twin bakes a really good cake, which the teacher says is the best in the class, and the other twin doesn't cook anything because they've left their ingredients at home.

It's afternoon break next. Both twins go to the toilet. One twin checks their reflection in the mirror and brushes their hair. The other twin doesn't look in the mirror at all and goes straight out to find their friends.

After dinner with their parents, one twin goes upstairs straight away to do their homework and the other twin watches TV for an hour or so. Before bed, one twin kisses their mum and dad good night, and the other shouts 'good night' down the stairs.

## Discussion

Who lay in bed longer?

Who made their own breakfast?

Who played football?

Who made the best cake?

Who brushed their hair in the bathrooms?

Who kissed their mum goodnight?

Why did you have that opinion?

Are these assumptions? Are they trues?

Describe a person who would be a ....

- librarian
- scientist
- ballet dancer
- boxer
- astronaut
- nurse
- surgeon



**Have you chosen any stereotypes or not?**

## What is a stereotype?

A stereotype is an idea or belief many people have about a thing or group that is based upon how they look on the outside, which may be untrue or only partly true. Stereotyping people is a type of prejudice because what is on the outside is a small part of who a person is. Stereotypes might be used as reasons to discriminate against another person.



## Mae Jemison (Afro American astronaut)

Mae Carol Jemison is an American engineer, physician, and former NASA astronaut. She became the first African-American woman to travel into space when she served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour in 1992.



## Sergei Polunin (Russian, male ballet dancer)

Sergei Vladimirovich Polunin is a Russian ballet dancer, actor and model.

## Activity - Discuss

How can stereotypes be negative and destructive?

They can limit people's aspirations and dreams.

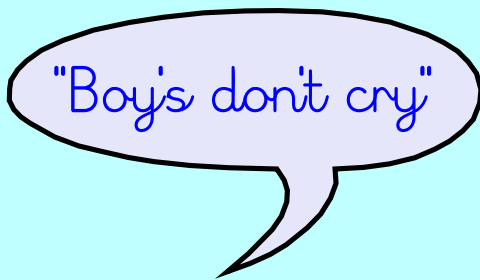
They can damage a persons self belief.

They can also damage our well-being and self-respect.





## Activity - Discuss



Why are these unfair?

How is it damaging to say girls are not good at throwing and boys shouldn't show their feelings?

How are these attitudes disrespectful?

### Post-It : Paired Work

On your post-it , record a 'unique' quality in your partner.

You will need to discuss what you are like in order to discover something unique about each other.