

# 8 Born in the USA?

REPRÉSENTATION DE SOI  
ET RAPPORT À AUTRUI

What does it mean to have two identities in the USA?



## SCENARIO

"USA! USA! USA!" Most Americans are very proud of their origins and their country, but some people living in the USA have identity issues. America is a land of immigration; dozens of cultures are represented there, not only by people who were born overseas, but also by people who were born in the USA but with their roots in another culture.

## FINAL TASK

Act out an  
improvised  
theatre scene



**ANTICIPATE**

**vidéo 16**

a. **Look at** the still.  
Read the title of the unit.  
**Brainstorm** what the TV series "Fresh Off the Boat" may be about.

b. **Watch** the scene from the TV series.

c. **Sum up** the scene briefly.

**It all starts when...**  
**After that, ... Then...**  
**Finally...**

**prof. 35 élève 33**

- **to be laughed at** /la:tft/  
= to be teased /tiz:d/
- **to endure** /m'djuər/: supporter
- **to feel alone** ≈ **to feel lonely**
- **to fit in:** s'intégrer
- **to make fun of:** se moquer de
- **to mix in:** se mélanger

81

## DOCUMENTS



### 1 What is diversity?

ANTICIPATE

- What is diversity to you?
- Watch the first part of the video.  
Compare and complete your definition.
- Watch the second part of the video.  
Write down the advantages of diversity that they mention.  
*Diversity helps you to understand...  
You get to + V...  
It gives us the opportunity to...*
- Watch the third part of the video.  
How did people deal with diversity in the past and how do they do it nowadays?  
*While people in the past...  
nowadays it...*
- With the help of all your notes, give a definition of diversity orally.



VIDEO

vidéo  
17-19



↑ Teens talk about diversity, USA Today (2014)



### 2 Family conflicts

ANTICIPATE

- Look at the picture.  
What can you say about Jhumpa Lahiri?  
*From her appearance, I'd say...*
- Listen to her experience with biculturalism.  
Write down what she says about problems, feelings and reactions.
- Imagine you are Jhumpa's mother.  
Present yourself and talk about your feelings.  
*When I first came to America,...  
As soon as I realised...  
I did my best to...*



▼



↑ Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri with her parents in New York City

#### TRAIN YOUR VOICE



Les sons /ʃ/ et /tʃ/

- Écoutez la phrase suivante.  
My parents both spoke English when I was a child.
- Classez les lettres en vert en fonction de leur prononciation : /ʃ/ ou /tʃ/.
- Qu'en déduisez-vous sur la graphie des sons /ʃ/ et /tʃ/ ?
- Entraînez-vous à prononcer ces mots : challenge, British, ashamed, teacher, Chinese, share, enrich, shock.

prof. 37  
élève 34

### 3 Surviving at school

ANTICIPATE

- a. **Imagine** it's your first day of school in a different country.

**Discuss** what difficulties you would face.

I think it would be... because...

- b. **Read** the comic strip. What is it about?

- c. **Answer** these questions.

- What is Timmy's reaction to Jin's arrival?  
What about the teacher's?
- Why did Jin and Suzy decide to avoid each other?
- What can you conclude about Timmy and the teacher's reaction towards Jim?

- d. **Group A:** Make a list of stereotypes about American people in a collaborative document.  
**Group B:** Make a list of stereotypes about British people in a collaborative document.

Americans are known for...

It's often said that...

People tend to think that...



- e. **React** to the other group's ideas with arguments or examples that prove the opposite.

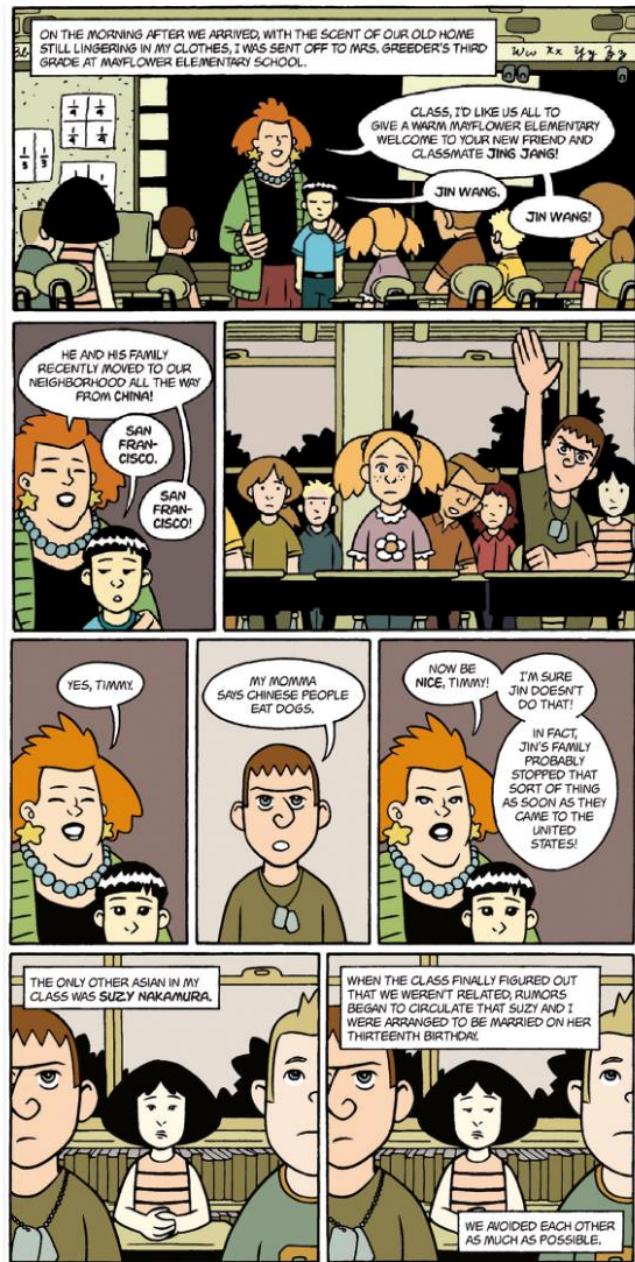
A lot of people say that...

However...



- f. In pairs, **imagine** you are two students at Jin's school. **Discuss:**

- how new foreign and / or bicultural students should be treated and integrated,
- the benefits of a diversified school.



↑ American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang (2013)

- prof. 38  
élève 35
- **enriching:** enrichissant(e)
  - **tolerant ≠ intolerant**
  - **biculturalism** /baɪ'kʌltʃərəlɪzəm/
  - **a misconception** /mɪskən'sepʃən/: une idée fausse
  - **multiculturalism** /mʌltɪ'kʌltʃərəlɪzəm/
  - **racism** /reɪzɪzɪsm/
  - **to be open-minded** /maɪndɪd/ ≠ **to be narrow-minded**
  - **to be prejudiced against sb** /predʒudɪst/:  
avoir des préjugés contre qqn
  - **to break / challenge a stereotype** /'stərɪətaɪp/:  
démontrer un stéréotype
  - **to discriminate (against) sb**
  - **to experience a culture**
  - **to feel like you don't belong**
  - **to get to do sth:** avoir l'occasion de faire qch
  - **to label sb:** étiqueter
  - **to learn from each other**

• Les subordonnées de temps → p. 220

My parents got mad **when** they saw me in modern clothes. He started learning English **as soon as** he set foot in the USA. **While** my American friends were partying, I was at home with my parents.

• L'expression de l'obligation et de l'interdiction → p. 214

I really **must** be more open-minded. You **have to** speak English perfectly, if you want to fit in. You **cannot** discriminate anyone based on their origins.

## 4 Where do I belong?

ANTICIPATE

a. Look at the poster. Describe it.

How hard can it be to have two identities?

**Group A:** Read the text about Claudine.

**Group B:** Read about Delfín.

Answer these questions:

1. What are their origins?
2. What languages can they speak?
3. What difficulties do they face?
4. How do they feel about being bicultural?

MEDIATION

c. Present your answers.

Take notes about the other group's character.

d. Write a paragraph comparing Claudine and Delfín.

Delfín **can...**, but Claudine **can't...**

Claudine **is...**, whereas / while Delfín **is...**

e. In your opinion, what are the positive and negative things about being bicultural?



↑ Not just a box campaign, BICsters (2017)

TEXT 1

*Claudine Chiawei O'Hearn was born in Hong Kong to an Irish-American father and a Chinese mother. Raised as an American in Singapore, she moved to the States to attend college.*

To be Chinese, to be half Chinese, is work. I often find myself cataloguing my emotions, manners, and philosophies into Chinese and American. How can I be Chinese if I prefer David Bowie to Chinese pop, if I can more easily pass as an American, if I choose to live in New York and not return to Asia where my family still lives, if English is my first language and Chinese remains a distant second? How can I be Chinese when I struggle to communicate with my grandparents? I am unable to tell them about my life and who I have become, and the result is they don't really know me.

For those of us who fall between the cracks, being "black," being "white," being "Chinese," being "Latino," is complicated. Cultural and racial amalgams create a third, wholly indistinguishable category where origin and home are indeterminate.

↑ Half and Half, Claudine O'Hearn (1998)

prof. 39  
élève 36

- **ashamed** /ə'ʃeimd/: honteux(euse) ≠ **proud**
- **bilingual** /ba'lingwɔl/: bilingue
- **an amalgam** /ə'mælgəm/ = **a mixture, a blend**
- **to be raised as**: être élevé(e) comme
- **to feel torn between**: se sentir tirailé(e) entre
- **to struggle to do sth**: avoir des difficultés à faire qqch

TEXT 2

*Delfín Carbonell is a renowned lexicographer. He was born and grew up in Spain, but was educated in the United States.*

Those of us who are bilingual and bicultural, which is the same, if we are worth our salt, have split personalities and a certain sense of being eternal outsiders, and always misunderstood. We must be on the alert at all times because in our daily intercourse we know there are subjects, names, facts, that we cannot mention in one culture because we will not be understood. We must change tones of voice, manners, references, gestures, and avoid certain subjects that in our other culture are fine. Certain jokes will make us laugh in one culture, while in another will make us angry.

It is indeed a rewarding experience to water at different and diverse cultural rivers, of course. (...) But today I just wanted to point out how lonely the bicultural road is, not always paved with wine and roses. Today I feel torn between two languages and two cultures, lonely and sad, a stranger.

↑ The loneliness of long-distance bicultural people, Delfín Carbonell (2013)

• L'expression de la capacité et de l'incapacité → p. 214

I **can** / **can't** speak Chinese.

I **am able to** / **am not able to** talk with my parents.

I **could** / **couldn't** pass as an American.

# VOCABULARY

→ Banque d'exercices p. 184



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| to be   a blend<br>a mixture                           | to have   an accent<br>mixed origins<br>a sense of belonging<br>a first / second language<br>split personalities | to be intolerant<br>to be narrow-minded ≠ open-minded<br>to be prejudiced against sb<br>to challenge   a stereotype<br>a view |
| to be ethnically diverse                               |  |   |
| to be an immigrant                                     |  |   |
| to be proud of your   heritage<br>roots<br>skin colour |  |   |

## FEATURES

## MISCONCEPTIONS

# BICULTURALISM

## ADVANTAGES

## DISADVANTAGES

|   |
|---|
| to adapt to a situation                 |
| to be bilingual                         |
| to enrich our lives                     |
| to experience two cultures              |
| to feel   at ease<br>at home            |
| to feel   blessed<br>fortunate<br>lucky |
| to fit in = to integrate                |
| to learn from each other                |
| to make the most out of sth             |
| to mix in                               |
| to open doors                           |
| to settle                               |

## FEELINGS

|  |
|--|
| alone  |
| ashamed                                      |
| discriminated                                |
| embarrassed                                  |
| frustrated                                   |
| inferior                                     |
| isolated                                     |
| lonely                                       |
| sad  |
| upset  |
| to feel   like you don't belong              |
| torn between   two languages<br>two cultures |
| to fall between the cracks                   |

|                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| to face   a challenge<br>difficulties |
| to struggle to do sth                 |

|   |
|---|
| to be discriminated against             |
| to be   laughed at<br>teased            |
| to be   misrepresented<br>misunderstood |
| to be seen as a cliché                  |
| to   endure   racism<br>suffer          |

## Make your own mind map

Make a mind map with the words and expressions that best describe multiculturalism in your high school.

## PREPARATION TIME

### How to be the best actor / actress

Vous devez jouer une scène devant un grand public ? Pas de panique ! Rappelez-vous que le théâtre d'impro... ne s'improvise pas totalement ! Suivez les conseils ci-dessous pour gagner le prix du meilleur acteur ou de la meilleure actrice.

#### Avant la scène

##### • Répartissez les rôles

Vous venez de choisir l'une des trois situations proposées par votre professeur(e). Avec les membres de votre groupe, déterminez qui va jouer quel personnage et quels seront vos objectifs respectifs.

##### • Faites travailler votre imagination

Concevez votre scène : pensez à un début, à une partie centrale (un conflit, une divergence...) et à une fin (la résolution du problème). Cette structure vous permettra de suivre les grandes lignes de la scène lorsque vous serez en train de jouer.

##### • Soyez prévoyant(e)

Pensez à tout ce qui pourrait se passer pendant la scène. Imaginez ce que vous pourriez dire dans les différents cas que vous envisagez, et notez les mots et expressions qui pourraient vous être utiles.

#### Pendant la scène

##### • Travaillez en équipe

Dans une scène improvisée, il y a forcément des imprévus. Pour faciliter les interventions de vos camarades, veillez à employer les mots ou phrases que vous aviez notés pendant la phase de préparation, et intervenez s'ils ne savent plus quoi dire. L'improvisation est un « sport d'équipe », tout comme la vie ou le travail !

##### • Entrez dans la peau de votre personnage

Les dialogues ne passent pas que par les mots ! Pour que votre personnage soit crédible, oubliez que vous êtes en train de jouer et devenez ce personnage. Comprenez ses réactions, sa façon de penser et de parler. Pensez à exprimer vos émotions (joie, colère, indignation...) par le ton de votre voix, vos gestes et les expressions de votre visage. Parlez à haute et intelligible voix et projetez votre voix plus loin que vous ne le feriez normalement.

## TRAIN YOUR VOICE



### Exprimer des émotions

prof. 40  
élève 37

- 1 Cette phrase a été enregistrée avec une intonation différente à chaque fois.  
**Lisez** les étiquettes, **écoutez** et **identifiez** l'humeur de la personne qui parle.

I have mixed origins. sadness happiness anger

- 2 **Lisez** les trois énoncés suivants. **Prononcez** chacun d'eux sur le ton qui vous semble le plus adéquat : sadness, happiness ou anger .

- a. I am very proud of my origins.
- b. Sometimes I feel torn between two languages and two cultures.
- c. Narrow-minded people are so annoying.

- 3 **Écoutez** les énoncés de l'activité 2.  
Vos suppositions étaient-elles correctes ?

prof. 41  
élève 38

## FINAL TASK



### ACT OUT AN IMPROVISED THEATRE SCENE



To celebrate the end of the school year, your class has decided to perform an improvised theatre play on the topic of "Culture shock".

- a. In groups of three, **choose** one of the situations your teacher will give you.
- b. **Decide** which role each student will play.
- c. **Imagine** a theatrical situation (but don't write a script). Why do they meet? Where? What happens? How does the scene start and end?
- d. **Perform** your scene.
- e. **Create** new groups with students who acted out the same situation. Can you improvise a new scene?
- f. **Record** the best performances and **upload** them to the school's website so that other students can learn about intercultural conflicts.

MEDIATION

- Fiche Grille éval.
- Fiche Grille autoéval.
- Fiche Doc. support

Sometimes, being a foreigner is tough. I remember that when I arrived here, I felt lonely and had to break many stereotypes about Chinese people.

I don't really think there are many misconceptions about you.

That's so untrue! Lots of people think Chinese people are shy, but you are the most outgoing person I know!