

Identity in CoNoTe – A European Comenius Project – Report

This is how we have been working with Identity in CoNoTe at the Polhemsgymnasiet in Göteborg, Sweden.

1. We informed the students about the CoNoTe Project. After some initial consideration of the topic, we handed the students of Art and Literature a questionnaire with the names of the participating countries and asked the students spontaneously to write what came into their minds when they heard and saw the names of the countries.

The further away a country was from their own country the less the students knew and their knowledge was vaguer.

Negative news about a country presented in the media has a strong influence.

A topic like Identity in a project such as CoNoTe shows how important it is to work in European projects in order to achieve an awareness of the European Dimension in the family, school and society.

2. The next step was to ask all the students to write down their thoughts concerning identity and what identity means to them.

According to them identity is made up of the traditions and codes of the native country: origin, language (the mirror of the nation's soul), personality, a set of values, cultural heritage, education, training, religion, philosophy, economy. This is what makes a human being the what he/she is.

3. So with this in mind we started working on the theme 'Midsummer in Art and Literature'. Midsummer is a very important feast in Sweden and is celebrated in June on the weekend that is closest to June 24th. The Art group painted Midsummer pictures and the literature students wrote Midsummer poems in Swedish and English expressing their feelings about Midsummer. The poems were written in sonnet form.

The pictures and poems reflect students ideas of identity in CoNoTe.

During the CoNoTe – Project Meeting in May in Paderborn, Germany the students and teachers presented their work in an exhibition, pictures and poems.

4. The next step was to work with the Lucia day celebrations, another very important feast in Sweden, celebrated on December 13th. The students of Art painted Lucia pictures and the Literature group wrote Lucia poems in sonnet form.

During the CoNoTe – Project Meeting in October in Salzburg in Austria our students performed a Lucia procession, singing Lucia songs and dressed in Lucia costumes. The pictures, poems and the songs reflect identity in CoNoTe.

5. We went further on with identity in CoNoTe working with three well known poems written by the Swedish writer Erik Gustav Geijer (1783 – 1847). The poems are „Vikingen“ – The Viking, „Odalbonden“ – The Yeoman and „Den lille kolargossen“ – The Little Charcoal – Burner Boy.

These poems reflect: strength, courage, individualism, love of liberty, uneasiness and love of adventure.

6. And now we are working with ‘Pippi Långstrump’, ‘Pippi Longstocking’, one of our most famous children’s books written by a very famous writer called Astrid Lingren.

The questions to be answered are: What makes ‘Pippi Långstrump’ so popular among children, what is it that makes children identify themselves with her.

We hope to present the results of ‘Pippi Långstrump’ during the CoNoTe – Project Meeting in May 2010 in Paderborn in Germany.

In this CoNoTe – Project so far 19 students of Art and 32 Students of Literature been working together with our Art teacher Jessica Andersson, our Language Assistant Jona Wicke from Lübeck in Germany, coordinated by Sture Lingrell – Swedish Language and Literature teacher.

Göteborg, March 14, 2010.

Sture Lingrell – Local Project Coordinator