

## THEME 10 VALUES AND NORMS READING SKILL (SPICE UP)

### **A. Read the page from a school e-magazine and choose a catchy title for the page.**

- a. APPRECIATE THE SIMILARITIES, RESPECT THE DIFFERENCES
- b. NO CULTURE SHOCK, NO CRY
- c. A FOREIGN ACCENT IS A SIGN OF BRAVERY

Travelling to a new country, studying or working abroad is going to change you. Although many people who travel abroad experience a degree of culture shock, it is nothing to be afraid of. Besides, it is a positive thing. It helps you grow both as a traveller and a person. Below are two culture shock stories from young adults around the world.

Before I went to Japan with an intercultural programme, I heard and read lots of things about Japan's culture. In fact, I didn't believe what I heard. When I arrived at the Tokyo Haneda Airport, I began to understand everything was really different in Tokyo. I wasn't sure how and where to take the train into the city centre, so I approached a woman in uniform and asked where I could take the train. To my surprise, she didn't speak a word of English. She spoke very quickly in Japanese, and when she saw my confused eyes, she smiled and bowed. I felt like I should learn Japanese. Luckily, I was able to find someone to guide me. After buying my ticket, I saw on the time schedule that the train would arrive in 3 minutes. The train arrived exactly on time, which gave me a great shock. In my country, trains are not so punctual. On the train, I never heard anyone say a single word. No conversation, no phone calls, no music. I was just hearing the sound of the train travelling at high speed. "Everything here seems strange," I murmured to myself. I found out soon that it was very rude to talk on the trains. I stayed in Tokyo for one and a half years and came back to my hometown, Zagreb with valuable lessons. Now, I can say that experiencing a new culture gives you the opportunity to become a global citizen. These experiences change the way you think and the way you act. They shape you for the better. For instance, I keep learning Japanese, and I never talk on the phone on public transport.

In 2018, I attended the Erasmus programme in İstanbul. My ambition was to learn about a different culture, language and cuisine while studying psychology. I stayed in a hostel where I met many Erasmus students from Europe. Wherever I went in Türkiye, there was always someone willing to help me and show me the way. I was invited to lots of dinners and other events. Actually, my first invitation was from a Turkish lady I met at the Warsaw Chopin Airport while I was waiting for my flight to İstanbul. I hadn't even set foot in Türkiye, but I was experiencing its famous hospitality. I stayed in İstanbul for a year, and I loved its people, language and food. The people always drink çay, the Turkish tea, which is my favourite drink in the whole world. It's both exciting and liberating to taste new food, meet different people, learn some words in a new language and even experience culture shock. Variety is the spice of life, I suppose.

### **B. Read the text in the e-magazine again and choose the best sentence for the main idea.**

- a. If you are planning to study abroad, you should think twice before leaving your comfort zone.
- b. Experiencing culture shock has a powerful and positive impact on the rest of your life.
- c. When you are surrounded by an unfamiliar culture, you have got lots of reasons to panic.