



Don't Judge Too Soon (3)

Intermediate (Classes 7-10)

Advanced (Classes 11-12)



A Non-Judgemental Approach (Pestalozzi Approach)

The facilitator dresses up and walks around in the way described in the descriptions of Pestalozzi - by de Guimps (the second passage) and Vulliemin (pp.11-12) *(NB: Acting should be based only on what could be seen as negative parts of the descriptions)* and asks the students what sort of a person this might be.

The facilitator now speaks as Pestalozzi, expressing some of his beliefs and teaching approaches and asks the participants what sort of a person they now think this might be. Changes in their ideas should be discussed, drawing out the importance of not making judgements without knowing the whole truth.

The facilitator gives the participants copies of the passages by de Guimps and Vulliemin and the teacher and participants read them together. *(NB: If participants do not know word meanings, the teacher provides them.)*

The participants think of other individuals or groups of people who may be wrongly judged because of how they appear to be (for example the scientist Stephen Hawking who had motor neurone disease).

- **How may they sometimes be described?**
- **What are they really like?**

This leads into a discussion about bias (inclination or prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be unfair), discrimination (the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, sex or age) and prejudice (preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience).

Throughout his life, Pestalozzi fought for the rights of people who were usually discriminated against, especially the poor. Because of Pestalozzi, Switzerland abolished its system of taxation, which had meant that only the poor were taxed. He argued for laws that would help unmarried mothers. He provided education not only for the poor but also for girls and for disabled children, who would not normally have been able to go to school.

Pestalozzi believed that each of us should learn to judge for ourselves and not be led by others. We should not talk about things we do not properly know about and we should only make judgements when we know all sides of an argument.

Materials Needed

- Clothes for the facilitator to dress up as Pestalozzi
- A copy for each participants of the passages describing Pestalozzi by de Guimps and Vulliemin