



Creative Commons / Denis Siley

## Stop the Hate

**Ikrame Yahyaoui**  
Intermediate 4

Hate: it's a feeling that most people feel for someone, but why? If you think quietly for a reason, you won't find one.

Hate shouldn't exist. It hurts a lot. There are people who aren't strong and whenever someone says anything bad, he or she can be broken so easily. If I could change one thing in the whole world, I'd stop hate and say, "be peaceful."

Most of us have tough times when we cry all alone in our rooms and have bad days. But, hey, think positively! What if you try to change yourself? Change to be better. Don't worry about what others say.

Be confident. Worry only about what your parents tell you—your brothers and sisters, too. If you're not close to them, try to get close to them.

Personally, I'm so happy because I love my family so much. I consider my sister to be my real best friend, because she just wants the best for me. I believe we can have best friends outside our families, such as in school. But just keep your eyes open. Don't trust (just) anyone. Live your life and enjoy it in the right way.

Teenage life can be hard, but with some help and confidence, you can go on and enjoy your life. So, stop hating anyone!

It really won't help humanity to progress. ❁

## Women and Rumors

**Kaoutar Oubdil**  
Beginning 5

Morocco was and is still known for a phenomenon that is part of Moroccan culture. This phenomenon is concerned with fabricating events that are often unfounded. We can consider women to be more active in trading these kinds of rumors.

There are many places which help to spread rumors, for example: public bathrooms, cafes, markets, family outings and other places where women meet.

Women often exaggerate the original event. This may cause problems and create misunderstandings, especially if the speech touches on the family. In the end, gossip leads to damage, problems, such as hostility or divorce. It is very difficult to restore life to normal.

We find that many girls are dishonest and dishonorable. Many women are accused of betrayal although they are polite. Honest men are accused of deception and theft. But, these are just rumors.

Rumors become like a fatal disease that must be addressed with disbelief, because if we accept them as truth, they will destroy our relationships. This can lead our society into a rumor war.

It is necessary to be aware of the truth. We have to seek the truth before we judge or accuse someone. ❁

## The Path of a Mother

**Ilyas Menouar**  
Intermediate 3

Mothers are the best thing that ever happened to humans. She protects her offspring from birth. When she is separated from him she cannot stop thinking that she cannot live without him, that her family

will be torn apart if he came to die. That's why she does everything to make him survive in this cruel world. Her efforts are rewarded when, after several months, he pronounces his first word, "Mom."

She sheds a tear of joy the day her

son goes to school for the first time. She might annoy her son a few times, but it's only for his education. She devotes her entire life to educating her son. And when, at his graduation ceremony, he is there, smiling, with his diploma in hand,

continued on page 2

## An Interview with: Linda Bouchard

**Samia Arihane**  
Intermediate 5

**SV:** *Where are you from?*

**LB:** Originally, I'm from Burlington, Vermont. And after that, Austin, Texas.

**SV:** *How long have you been in Morocco?*

**LB:** Almost fourteen years now.

**SV:** *Why did you first come to Morocco?*

**LB:** I came in the summer to teach the Summer Intensive English course, and because I wanted to see the Medina, but have more time to spend here than I would on a regular vacation.

**SV:** *Why did you choose to live in Fes?*

**LB:** For the same reason as everybody else. The Medina architecture is

interesting. The history is fascinating.

**SV:** *Have you lived anywhere else (besides the U.S. and Morocco)?*

**LB:** I lived in Germany and Puerto Rico.

**SV:** *Tell me about your "life as a student." Where did you study?*

**LB:** I studied at my hometown university, the University of Vermont. I lived at home. I was a "commuter" student.

**SV:** *What did you study?*

**LB:** I started out as an Education major with a French minor. I ended up with a B.A. in Agriculture.

**SV:** *Have you ever studied Arabic at ALIF?*

**LB:** When I first came here, I took darija lessons because I was living here, just for practical reasons.

**SV:** *What do you do at ALC?*

**LB:** I work in the administration. I do half student services and enrollment. My job is preparing non-Moroccan students for their trips to Morocco. I also work

on accounting and general administration for the whole school.

**SV:** *How long have you worked at ALC?*

**LB:** The whole time that I've been in Morocco.

**SV:** *Have you ever taught English here?*

**LB:** Yes. When I first arrived. I taught English for the first year. Mostly Beginning 5 and Juniors.

**SV:** *Why did you stop teaching English?*

**LB:** To move to the ALIF job because I really like study abroad and I wanted to help students have the opportunity to move here and learn about a new country. Every student should have the opportunity to study abroad and should take advantage of it.

**SV:** *What's the most challenging aspect of moving abroad?*

**LB:** The different way that people do everyday things. You have to adjust your own routines. Being flexible and open-minded.

**SV:** *What qualities do good students have?*

**LB:** Good students are curious and open-minded. They want knowledge as opposed to information.

**SV:** *What qualities do good teachers have?*

**LB:** They have a passion for their subject and enthusiasm for sharing it. Lots of patience, because we never learn anything the first time. It's a matter of repetition, and practice, and striving.

**SV:** *Do you have any particular goals that you are proud of having achieved?*

**LB:** I always wanted to travel and I've done that and I've made it possible for all of my children to do that, too.

**SV:** *Do you have any goals that you still want to achieve in your life?*

**LB:** I have a lot of things that I still want to do. The top three are: mastering the banjo; getting a small farm, since I graduated with a B.A. in agriculture and wanted to be a farmer; and I'm going to write a book someday. It won't be a biography, probably a fiction book, but you always write what you know.

**SV:** *If you weren't working at ALC, what would you be doing?*

**LB:** Farming.

**SV:** *What's your favorite word in the English language?*

**LB:** "Amazing."

**SV:** *What's your least favorite word in the English language?*

**LB:** That one's "can't."

**SV:** *What word do you overuse?*

**LB:** "Amazing." I'm always saying that.

**SV:** *What is your motto?*

**LB:** Change your thoughts and you change your world. ✿



© Linda Bouchard

## Stereotypes of Women

**Ilham Akkioui**  
Intermediate 2

Why do people manage to reduce women from human beings? Is it simple because she is a woman or because they don't feel okay without hurting her?

Unfortunately, these stereotypes are part of our culture, but it's high time we focus and correct all those bad images or beliefs that most people propagate and manage to internalize. ✿

continued from page 1

she knows that the goal of her life has just been completed, and she cannot stop the tears from flowing.

Every human who has his mother at his side must never leave her alone. He must take care of her. A big thanks for mothers because without them, we wouldn't be here. ✿



Creative Commons

## The Story Behind XX and XY

**Omaima Loukili**  
Advanced 4

Human nature, whether the physical or the moral, is controlled by the smallest molecule within our body, which is DNA. Forget the twenty-two pairs of chromosomes: the ones related to how we look, how we react towards our daily life, and even how we think. Let us concentrate on the last pair of chromosomes: the ones that define our sex, female or male; in other (scientific) words: XX or XY. When we hear about these decisive parts of the human body, a lot of questions come into our minds. What are their compositions and how are they even formed that way? What is the difference between the XX and the XY?

Personally, the first question that crossed my mind when I studied genetics, was very simple, simpler than the course itself. I am sure a lot of us had this dilemma in our minds. Why did we name these chromosomes XX for female and XY for male? It might be a silly question, however, a lot of silly questions were the reasons behind great discoveries, innovations, and stories. I assume that the tale of XX and XY goes like this:

At the very beginning of the creation of a human, atoms are asked to

form a molecule to be sent to the core of a cell. These atoms will determine the characteristics of a newborn. Every atom agrees, but when the time comes to decide the role of sex chromosomes, a misunderstanding happens.

Some atoms become happy because, from now on, they will not be small unknowns; they will participate in the creation of one of the most beautiful and powerful “things” on the blue planet. Thus, they joyously join each other and celebrate the end of their miserable lives. This is why we call them X-chromosomes, because they become “ex-unwanted” life forms. When the same request goes to tinier atoms to join each other and form a molecule, they respond kind of roughly. They keep nagging and asking the commander, “Why me?” This is why we call them Y-chromosomes, because they do not stop asking, “Why?”

This story shows the difference between boys and girls. Girls are usually obedient, accepting changes. They create new lives and quit their “ex” ones. On the other hand, boys are more conservative about leaving their comfort zones. Whenever they face changes, they usually react like their chromosomes. They don't stop asking: “Why me?” ❁

## With No Strength

**Imane Slaoui**  
**Roumaysae Bella**  
Intermediate 6

With no strength, I am helpless,  
with no faith, I am hopeless.  
In an empty room, there's an empty heart,  
sliding down a white wall, falling apart.  
Gasps for air, heavy breaths,  
seeking blood, heart ripped to shreds.  
Just as I was giving up, suddenly,  
you came.  
How come you noticed me,  
I so alone and lame?  
Thick walls I'd built held secrets  
I'd never tell,  
with one punch of your fist,  
right down they fell.  
Your angelic voice so soothing,  
your enormous smile in my brain, rooting,  
your supportive words in my ear,  
always blasting,  
my admiration for you always lasting.  
You were here for me  
when no one else was.  
You're my definition of happiness,  
my sense of warmth and fuzziness.  
You taught me to be confident,  
You taught me to be brave,  
You taught me to be independent,  
and not somebody's slave.  
All I wish for is to meet you and  
pay you back.  
I can't thank you enough,  
you and the whole pack.  
Not all heroes wear caps is what I learned.  
Strength is what I earned.  
Not all angels have wings  
is what I learned.  
Faith is what I earned. ❁

# The Big Question

Introducing a new, recurrent feature. The ALC Journalism Club asks ALC teachers and students the same question.

## What's the most significant (English-language) book you've ever read?

**Samia Arihane**

Intermediate 5

**Omaima Loukili**

Advanced 4

Mrs. Kaoutar Bakhchane, English teacher:

"*The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas. It was a bilingual edition, so it helped me when I was really struggling with my English."

Mr. Rida Bernouss, English teacher:

"*How to Make Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie. It was a best-seller. I read it a long time ago and it was simple and insightful."

Mr. Mitch Virchick, English teacher:

"*V* by Thomas Pynchon. I read it when I was about 20. It brought together so

many of the strange bits of knowledge that I had learned growing up. Until then it all seemed like isolated things with no connection to my life. Reading the book allowed me to understand that all these things were connected to my life and the way I saw the world. We are the sum total of what we know. It was the first serious novel I think I had read." 🌟

## Love, Trust, Respect, Faith

**Kaoutar Hadi**

Beginning 5

We all want this person who cares about us, makes us feel safe, special and beloved, takes care of us like we were a part of this person.

But the reality is something else; it's much different than we ever thought. We all must learn how to live alone and care for ourselves, to have the habit of the absence of someone we used to love and know. Sometimes we feel that we are lonely, and that no one cares about us or loves us. Actually, being loved by anyone is being loved by everyone.

So why do we look for this when we can live with a few people who really love us for who we are, not for what they want? Remember that it's not about how many people are around you. It's all about: LOVE, TRUST, RESPECT, and FAITH. 🌟

## Gift of Gab Word Search

B	A	G	E	X	V	Q	A	X	F	E	N	E	D
K	E	P	H	E	F	E	G	P	Z	N	M	G	C
I	W	I	R	T	K	M	R	I	M	I	C	L	O
R	E	T	T	A	H	C	U	B	A	P	H	U	N
K	V	Q	E	R	T	Q	B	L	A	Y	A	V	V
A	R	P	O	P	O	T	C	G	Z	L	T	I	E
Y	S	C	X	L	T	X	L	C	I	V	I	D	R
X	T	C	I	P	E	S	X	E	A	Q	H	Z	S
I	T	L	R	H	A	P	S	O	D	I	Z	E	E
Q	O	L	W	A	R	D	E	E	W	X	K	B	B
S	S	K	A	E	D	Y	S	N	F	Z	D	H	A
Z	O	I	V	F	B	C	A	C	O	N	V	Q	B
D	H	E	X	P	R	E	S	S	U	R	O	I	B
F	A	K	T	I	S	P	O	U	T	T	D	C	L
L	O	E	B	K	S	Z	U	D	L	I	T	M	E
X	L	E	U	K	J	M	O	H	R	M	C	E	L
L	C	P	V	D	R	F	A	P	J	E	M	M	R
D	Y	A	L	R	F	Z	M	Y	L	H	A	L	X

How many different ways can you **talk** about **talking**?

Find these words in the puzzle:

babble	divulge	prate	speak
chat	drawl	prattle	spout
chatter	drone	reveal	tell
confess	exclaim	rhapsodize	utter
converse	express	say	verbalize
describe	gab	soliloquize	yak