

## A classroom activity called **FOREIGN**

Pupils read the text, which is called A Quest. The text tells a story about an Italian dove who comes to Finland to visit her Finnish friend. They have met each other abroad, in Italy.

The text is **suitable** for 8-9 years old literate children.

**The object:** Based on the text is to have a discussion with the children about different manners and habits in different countries, including for example food, clothing and languages. This text and discussion also helps children to understand differences between people, cultures and respect the habits and ways of living that they represent.

### **The text - A Quest**

Finnish Dove (called Eno): White Dove from Italy is coming really soon.

Finnish Cat (called Sisu): Oh good heavens! What does she eat?

Eno: Do you think that she eats you! She is omnivorous bird.

Sisu: Stop that! I meant, that she is a foreigner and she is used to eat different kind of food than we are.

Eno: I think that she is happy to taste the Karelian pies that you have made.

Finnish Bat (called Leena): I don` t know how to communicate with her, because she speaks different language than we do.

Eno: She` ll understand you when you take your expressions to your help.

Sisu: She is so different!

Eno: You are a cat and I am a dove. Leena is a bat. We all are different.

Leena: But she is a foreigner. She comes from the other country.

Eno: You should remember that in White Doves home country we are foreigners.

Sisu: Shh! Be quiet! She is coming.

White Dove: Buona sera.

Leena: Oh, what a stylish bird.

Eno: Good evening, White Dove. Wellcome to our country.

White Dove: Thank you, Eno, this good country. Here nice things.

Sisu: Please, help yourself with the food! Here you have Karelian pies.

White Dove: Ah, pizza!

Eno: They are quite different than pizza. They are not spiced that way.

White Dove: Oo, whole Finland different taste. Everything exciting.

Sisu: Oh, I think everything is normal.

Leena: Many things are done here in Finland with the different way than in her home country.

Eno: That`s the point! In this way Finland appears new way to us too.

## Lesson 1

Read the text carefully. After reading discuss about the text with your friend beside you.

1. What do you know about Italy?
  - write the things you know on the blackboard
  - discuss about the things which you have found out
  
2. Why the foreigner bird didn`t know our food?
  - write as many different foods from different countries as you know on the blackboard
  - compare them to the food we are used to here in Finland
  
3. Why did the foreigner speak so funny way?
  - Finnish grammatic is very different if we compare it to other Languages. That`s why it`s very difficult to study or to speak Finnish if it isn`t our own mother tongue.
  - Compare few languages (You may use tapes or writings). Do you find differences? What about similarities?

## Lesson 2

### Songs

These congratulation songs are in Finnish, in English and in Italy. The tune is well known all over. You can discuss the words and the meanings with children.

Paljon onnea vaan,  
paljon onnea vaan,  
paljon onnea Anna,  
paljon onnea vaan!

Happy birthday to you,  
happy birthday to you,  
happy birthday dear Ann,  
happy birthday to you.

Tanti auquri a te,  
tanti auquri a te,  
tanti auqri cara Anna,  
tanti auquri a te.

This activity was carried out with the children aged 7-8. They were very enthusiastic. They also were active participants of the discussions. At present when a child in this class is having her or his birthday, we can sing our congratulation songs with different languages.