

To Kill a Mockingbird - Stereotypes

Stereotype (n) 1: a plate cast from a printing surface. 2: something conforming to a fixed or general pattern. 3: a mental picture that is held in common by members of a group, usually representing an oversimplified opinion or prejudiced attitude

When a person or group is stereotyped, that person/group loses its individuality. The person or group members are lumped together and defined by general characteristics that the person/group may or may not have.

Read the rhyme below and answer the questions that follow.

*What are little boys made of?
Snips and snails, and puppy dogs tails
That's what little boys are made of!"*

*What are little girls made of?
"Sugar and spice and all things nice
That's what little girls are made of!"*

1. Does this rhyme stereotype boys and girls?
2. What impression does the rhyme give of boys?
3. What impression does it give of girls?
4. Does this rhyme give a fair and accurate picture of what all girls and boys are like? Why/why not?
5. What is your impression of little girls?
6. What is your impression of little boys?
7. Do you think you stereotype people this way? Why/why not?
8. Why do you think some people do stereotype others?

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