

Recap séquence PINK & BLUE



As we have studied today, some labels tend to be associated with men or women. For instance, a woman is supposed to be chatty and emotional, whereas a man is going to be rather clever and adventurous. These are called gender stereotypes. They are mainly spread by what we call role models. A vast majority of students is aware that gender stereotypes are an issue today. How can we fight against them?

“He’s a man”

- 1 'Faith, lay the table for me, nah,' Mum said.
 'Ask Carl.'
 'No.'
 'Why not?'
- 5 'Because I ask you,' Mum stated.
 'But you always ask me and I don't live here any more.'
 'Just lay the table, Faith,' Carl interferred.
 'And you shut up your gob. Bloody men.'
- 10 'Oh, God,' Carl said crossing himself, 'I've started her off.'
 'Carl,' Mum snapped, 'don't speak of the Lord in that way.'
 'It's not fair, Mum, he never does anything.' It didn't come out as I had wanted it to. I said it too high and petulant, like a spoilt little girl.

What I had wanted to say was that my brother Carl had never, as far as I could remember, cooked a meal. If he went to make a simple piece of toast Mum would shake him off the grill and finish watching it brown for him. He had never consciously washed any plate or saucepan. 'Leave it, son' Mum would say, 'Faith can do it later.' He had never cleaned a room because Mum decreed that, 'Men can't see dust.' Carl had never washed a garment because, 'washing is a skilled job', according to Mum. I used to question my parents, 'How come you never ask Carl what time he's coming home?' or 'Why don't you ever want to know where Carl has been?' And to all the questions I got the same answer. 'He's a man,' they would say, which was meant to explain it all. 'He's a man.'

25 'You're such a lazy bastard,' I whispered to my brother and he smiled at me, showing me the two dimples in his cheeks. His charming cheeky smile that made my mum giggle no matter what he had done.

'Let's face it, Faith,' Carl said, spreading his hands and shrugging, 'I've got to have a fault otherwise nobody would believe I was real.'

Andrea Levy, *Fruit of the Lemon*, 2007



	Has to do	Doesn't have to do	Reasons given by their parents
Carl		Cook a meal Wash the dishes Clean a room Wash clothes Explain where he was when he comes home	Faith can do it later Men can't see dust Washing is a skilled job He's a man
Faith	Lay the table ... et l'on comprend d'après sa réaction ("you always ask me") que c'est à elle qu'incombent toutes les tâches épargnées à son frère.		On peut déduire des raisons invoquées pour dispenser Carl des tâches ménagères qu'à l'inverse, la mère estime qu'elles incombent à Faith "because she's a woman".

- **He’s a man”**. What do the parents mean by that?

Men are not supposed to do the housework. They are genetically unfit to do the housework. Men are not meticulous enough to do it as it should be done. They have more important things to do than the housework. Doing the housework is a skill passed on from mother to daughter.



what she says	what she means
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we're allowed to vote and – I think since 1982 now – and we can wear pants, we can drive at night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Progress toward gender equality is a slow and tiresome process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's about damn time! Where have our pens been? Can you believe this? We've been using men pens all these years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → This is a ridiculous idea, a useless product
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And they come in both lady colors, pink and purple, and they're just like regular pens except they're pink so they cost twice as much 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → This so-called innovation is just a way to make women spend more money for nothing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The worst part is they don't come with any instructions, so like how can they expect us to learn how to write with them, you know? I was reading the back of the pack – well, I had a man read the back of the package to me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Women are considered idiots
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We're taking down dictation from our bosses, we'll feel comfortable and we'll forget we're not getting paid as much? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Marketers want women to believe this innovation is a step forward to gender equality, but instead of inventing solutions to imaginary problems, society should focus on real inequalities

Ellen uses irony and satire throughout her monologue; she acts as if we were in the 1920s. She then says that women are incapable of thinking for themselves.



- Snow White is holding two of her children. One of them is crying, another daughter is pulling on her skirt, while a fourth one is crawling in a corner of the room.
- A dog is sniffing the carpet.
- Snow White is staring at us while her husband is relaxing and watching a sporting event on TV. He is holding a can of beer.
- The scene takes place a few years after Snow White's wedding to the Prince
- They are supposed to live happily ever after, but obviously it is not the case. There seems to be no communication or love between them. They seem totally estranged from one another.