Theme Five: Seeing is Believing!

Advanced Thematic Discussion

By E. Tahasoni
www.tahasoni.com/atd
Religion and Belief

- How would a strong belief in afterlife affect people’s lives?
- What is your conception of heaven and hell? What would the best pleasures and worst tortures in heaven and hell be respectively?
- Why do many people become so religious when they get older?
- What is the point of a religious trip, an example of which is present in many religions (e.g. Muslims’ Haj, Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land in Palestine or Santiago de Compostela in Spain)?

Superstitions

- What do you think of the following beliefs held by many around the world?
  - When you praise someone, you should knock on the wood.
  - You shouldn’t talk about dead people.
  - Love follows marriage.
  - Broken mirror brings seven years of bad luck.

- Many solid beliefs of the past have been abolished as science and our understanding of the world have progressed. Which currently-held beliefs do you think would be susceptible to rejection in the future? Why?
- The British philosopher Stephen Law has described some belief systems (including belief in homeopathy, psychic powers and alien abduction) as “claptrap” and said that they "draw people in and hold them captive so they become willing slaves ... if you get sucked in, it can be extremely difficult to think your way clear again". What is your idea?

Belief Idioms

- What do you think of the following idioms? Do you think they make sense?
  - Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half of what you see.
  - Seeing is believing.
  - It has to be seen to be believed.
  - If you believe that, you’ll believe anything.
  - Liar is not believed when he tells the truth.