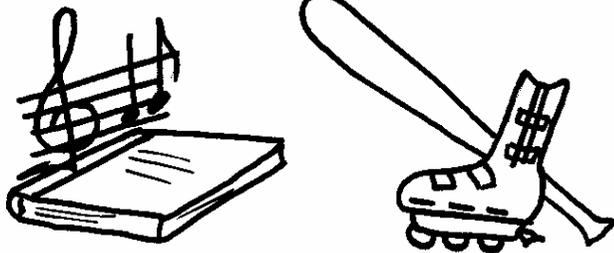


CHILDREN OF TWO NATIONS

Brenda David



Brenda All young children, whatever their culture, are alike in their charm and innocence - in being a clean slate on which the wonders and ways of the world are yet to be written. But during the three years I worked in a school in Milan, I learned that American and Italian children were different in several ways. First, young American children, on the other hand, tend to be passive, quiet, and not particularly inquisitive. They usually depend on their parents to tell them what to do. Second, Americans show their parents and grandparents to tell them what to do or not do. Third, and most important to those

who question the influence of environment on a child, the American children generally surpass their Italian schoolmates in math, mechanical, and scientific abilities. But American children are overshadowed by their Italian counterparts in their languages, literature, art and music courses. Perhaps the differences, which those of us at the school confirmed in all informal study, were to be expected. After all, what priority do Americans give to the technological skills? And what value do Italians - with the literature of poets and authors like Boccaccio, the works of Michelangelo, and the music of the world-famous La Scala opera at Milan – place on the cultural arts?

- **inquisitive** - допитливий, надміру зацікавлений
- **passive** - пасивний, інертний, спокійний
- **priority** - пріоритет, старшинство, передування
- **surpass** - перевершувати, переважати, переганяти
- **clean slate (about children) (Tabula Rasa)** - чиста дошка, 'ліпи що хочеш'

Questions about the reading

- Why, according to the writer, do American children score higher in technical subjects, and Italian children score higher in cultural subjects?
- What does the writer imply about the influence of environment on a child?

Writing Assignment

- Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting parents who are permissive and parents who are strict.

popular image of the cowboy has been a contrast feature in American life since the 1800s. Yet over the decades that image has undergone several changes. Gretel Elrich portrays the cowboy as someone whose strength comes from gentleness, compassion, and commitment to hard work.

A cowboy is someone who loves his work. Since the hours are long - ten to fifteen hours a day - and the pay is \$30 he has to. What's required of him is an odd