

Never judge a book by its cover

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

Edizioni Febbraio 2018

1. We all judge people based on what we can 'see' about them and what we think we 'know' about them. Write down six things that we often judge people on:

Ex: their house
.....

2a. Read

Mark has got a lot of tattoos.

I know, I used to think he was a really scary person.

Me too but he's the kindest person
I know.

Definitely! That's why you should never judge a book by its cover.

2b. Complete

Jack looks like a poor student in his ripped jeans and old trainers, but he's actually the boss of an internet company – you should

By judging people only on their appearance we don't give them the chance to show us their true selves. Mark and Jack are both different people to the people we think they are because of their appearance.

3. Read these idioms. Match each idiomatic phrase (a – f) to the correct definition (1 – 6).

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. When we pigeon hole people, we don't give them the chance to show us who they really are. | 1. ... be different from his family... |
| b. Frankie doesn't want to be tarred with the same brush as his brother, Jimmy. Jimmy is always in trouble. | 2. ... never judge someone based only on what you can see. |
| c. All of Sammy's family members are petty criminals but Sammy decided to break the mould . He is a policeman. | 3. ... label... |
| d. Jude and his cousin Mike are like two peas in a pod – they're exactly the same. | 4. ...twins... |
| e. My mum didn't want to hire the new babysitter because she is a punk with red and blue hair, but she is the most responsible babysitter ever – you really should never judge a book by its cover . | 5. ...very similar... |
| f. Magda and her sister Klodia are cut from the same cloth – they are both kind and generous. | 6. ...regarded in the same negative way... |

4. Complete these sentences with an idiom from exercise 3.

- a. All the kids in Nico's neighbourhood went straight to college but Nico decided to and travel the world first.
- b. Phil and his brother Mike are not Phil is outgoing and funny whereas Mike is quiet and reserved.
- c. Johnny got..... as his father. Just because his dad was in prison, everyone thought he was a criminal too.
- d. I..... because sometimes people who look really strange are actually the nicest.
- e. Lola and her best friend Siena are like..... . They dress the same, they walk the same, they even talk the same way.
- f. Some teachers students so that even when they improve, they don't get the praise and recognition they deserve.

5. Read this quote from *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck and discuss with a partner:

"I wonder how many people I have looked at all my life and never really seen".

Teacher's Notes

1. Write down six things that we often judge people on. Sample answers: their clothes, their hair, their job, their personal possessions, their money, their car..

- 2b. Complete

*Jack looks like a poor student in his ripped jeans and old trainers but he's actually the boss of an internet company- you should **never judge a book by its cover**.*

This could be a good point at which to ask students to share their experiences: it could be times that they've judged other people based on the way they look or times that they feel they have been judged based only on their appearance.

3. Match each idiomatic phrase to the correct definition.

a 3 b 6 c 1 d 4 e 2 f 5

4. Complete the sentences with an idiom from exercise 3.

- a. All the kids in Nico's neighbourhood went straight to college but Nico decided to **break the mould** and travel the world first.
- b. Phil and his brother Mike are not **cut from the same cloth**. Phil is outgoing and funny whereas Mike is quiet and reserved.
- c. Johnny got **tarred with the same brush** as his father. Just because his dad was in prison, everyone thought he was a criminal too.
- d. I **never judge a book by its cover** because sometimes people who look really strange are actually the nicest.
- e. Lola and her best friend Siena are like **two peas in a pod**. They dress the same, they walk the same, they even talk the same way.
- f. Some teachers **pigeon hole** students so that even when they improve, they don't get the praise and recognition they deserve.

5. Ask students to discuss the meaning of this quote and whether they themselves are guilty of looking through people they don't deem to be of interest just because of the way they look.

* Sarah Gudgeon

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