



8th Month (Learning Focus Area #3)

- › Developing sensitivity and empathy for a particular person is relatively easy, and the host family will have done so towards the student, even if they don't share all of each other's values. Talk with them if they think it will be easier for them to approach and engage with other people or groups as well, or if they feel more at ease in other situations than previous to the hosting experience. You may want to use a short story like this parable of the wise judge as a starting point for your conversation:

Two litigants bring their case before a judge who listens to the first litigant with serious and considered attention before delivering his verdict: "You are right." He then listens to the second with the same considered attention and pronounces: "You are right." Someone from the gallery stands up and objects "Your honor, how can they both be right?" The judge pauses for a minute before responding, "And you too are right."

Have a discussion about what this story means to members of the family:

- *How can the judge think that all three people are right?*
- *Can contradictions coexist?*
- *How does this parable fit the AFS context, and intercultural learning in general?*

- › During your conversation, refer to the fourth newsletter, particularly the testimonial of a host family that focuses on the educational benefits that they feel they have gained throughout the experience (see page 74 for more information about the fourth newsletter).



HOST STUDENT AND FAMILY ACTIVITY

Ask both the student and the host family again to discuss these three questions:

- *What was everyone's highlight of the month?*
- *What was everyone's main challenge?*
- *How can we better support each other with the challenges?*