

Breakfast conversations - Critical thinking & Philosophy



No. 1

To do - watch the clip and discuss with your form tutor.

Is it ever okay for a government to lie to its people?



No. 2

To do - watch the clip and discuss with your form tutor.

Do you think happiness is the most important thing in life?



No. 3

To do - watch the clip and discuss with your form tutor.

What do you think Philosophy is?



No. 4

To do - watch the clip and discuss with your form tutor.

Do humans have to be part of a society to flourish and be happy?



No. 5

To do - watch the clip and discuss with your form tutor.

Do you think science can solve all of our problems?



To do - read the information and discuss what you would do.

A family recently discovered a mirror they had been hanging over their toilet was actually once owned by the Queen of France Marie Antoinette.

It is likely to be worth £20,000!!!

Discuss - if you found out something you previously thought was worthless was actually worth a lot of money, what would you do? Would you sell it? Would you keep it? What makes something valuable? Do you think people value objects and 'stuff' more than people?



To do - read the information and discuss what you would do.

You have all been selected to be the first people on planet earth to go on a mission to Mars. Whilst there you will be developing a museum that represents humanity. ***What would you bring?***

Discuss - What makes an item or thing deserving of our attention? Would you want to show only the best of humanity, or would you also show the worst? What kind of things unite us?



To do - discuss the quick fire questions first as a pair then as a class.

Would you rather be a camel or a penguin?

How would you describe an elephant to someone who has never seen one?

If you had 1 wish, what would it be?

What is your favourite drink?

Would you rather live in a country that is always hot, or a country that is always cold?

When you wake up in the morning, everything in your bedroom has turned green. Why do you think this has happened?

To do - Think, pair, share the 3Cs.

What are you **CURIOUS**
about?

What are you **CONCERNED**
about?

What do you want to **CREATE**
in the world?



To do - Critical Thinking Christmas Special.

Christmas is that special time of year where adults tell small children that if they are bad all they will get is coal.

Some people say that the lumps of **coal** story started in Holland in the 16th century. Before **Christmas**, children would put their clogs by the fireplace before stockings were used. When a child was bad they got a lump of **coal**, but if they were good they got a small toy, cookies or candy.



The question is...

Can you force someone to be good?

Stretch follow up:

Should you force someone to be good?

To do - Sticky questions.



Could you have a sport where everyone was on the same side?



Can anything be true and false at the same time?



If you laugh when you are trying not to, is it you doing the laughing?



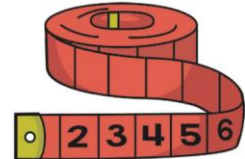
Would an elephant make a good pet?



If pigs are what wolves eat, is the Big Bad Wolf bad?



If a jury has 12 members, how many should it take to find someone guilty?



Is there anything that cannot be measured?



What would life be like for someone who was afraid of nothing?

To do - Trump questions.

January 20th 2021 was the day Trump officially left power. NOTHING was normal about his presidency. As a president he had expectations and powers that he had either not followed or he abused. **Discuss**, what do you think of the following questions:

- President Trump will always be referred to as President Trump from now on, ***do you think this is fair?***
- No President has not attended the inauguration of their successor in modern times, Trump is running off to Florida, ***is it ever okay to be a sore loser?***
- Presidents have the power to pardon crimes, Trump has used this to pardon friends of his who have broken the law, ***who should decide whether someone deserves to be let off after they commit a crime?***
- In America you can only not try and be president again if you win twice, ***Should Trump be allowed to run for president again?***



To do - Philosophers Fruit Salad Questions

Who's better?

Are dogs better than cats?

Are dolphins better than sharks?

Are cats better than dolphins?

Are sharks better than dogs?

Are boys better than girls?

Are children better than adults?

Cosmology

Does everything have a cause?

Did time have a beginning?

Is the future longer than the past?

Political philosophy

Is it fair to expect the rich to pay for the rich?

Is it fair to expect the poor to work for the rich?

Would the world be fairer if all jobs paid the same?



To do - Student Philosophy takeover!

Sometimes it is great to hear what questions students have to ask. Ask three students to come up with three questions they'd like to discuss prior to a session.

- What is the goal of humanity?
- If you had one wish in reality what would you wish for?
- Is free will real or just an illusion? Does fate exist? What harsh truths do you prefer to ignore?

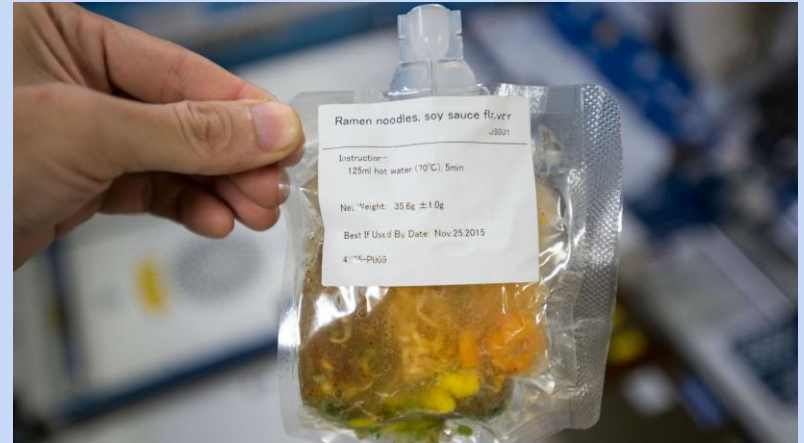


To do - plan your perfect three course meal.

You have been sent on a mission to Mars, to save weight you will only be eating puree meals for the next 2 years.

However, Nasa will allow you 10 of your favourite drink and snack. As well as this they will also make you one last earth meal, it will be three courses.

Task - Pick your drink and snack and your final earth meal for two years.



To do - think about the questions.

"Which would be a better shopkeeper, a gorilla or a tiger?"

Would a giraffe be better travelling by car or by ferry?

Should a cyclops live in Walthamstow or Paris?

Should a Medusa work as a shop assistant or as a mechanic?

Would a teacher or a lawyer have a better chance of surviving in a haunted mansion?

Would a cat or a dog be better at football?

What is the opposite of a lion?

Can you control happiness?
Is fear real?
Can inequality be solved?
Can you buy anger?



To do - Read through and then discuss the questions on the Ring of Gyges.

Once in the ancient kingdom of Lydia, there lived a shepherd called Gyges. The sheep he looked after were not his own: they belonged to the King.

One day when Gyges was out grazing the flocks, there was a great storm. Lightning stabbed at the earth, and crashes of thunder swept the sky. Then an earthquake shook the hills, answering the thunderclaps with the crunching of stone on stone.

When the storm and the earthquake were over, and all was quiet again, Gyges was amazed to see that a hole had opened up in the earth. When he looked into it, he saw a long tunnel. At the end, he could just make out the faint glimmer of shining metal.

He took a torch and followed the tunnel, which opened into a cave. In the centre of the cave, surrounded by many other wonderful things, was an enormous horse made of bronze. Stranger still, the horse had doors, and inside them lay... a huge body. Not just the body of a large man, but of a small giant. The body was wearing a gold ring, set with a single gem. Gyges took the ring and went back up.

The king's shepherds all met together, and they talked about the storm, and about whose turn it was to visit the king and report on how the flocks were doing. While Gyges was sitting with them, he happened to twist the ring so that the gem was on the inside of his hand. Then he was amazed to hear the other shepherds talking about him as if he was not there at all. Not all of it was nice. When he turned the ring back the other way, a few people looked very embarrassed, and wondered how they hadn't noticed him.

Gyges soon realised that the ring could make him invisible whenever he wanted. All he had to do was to turn the ring so the gem was on the inside of his hand. He made a plan, and this is what he did.

He made sure he was the one sent to report to the king.

When he got to the palace, he twisted the ring to make himself invisible, and crept into the queen's bedroom.

With smooth words and promises of power, he persuaded the queen to fall in love with him. And together, they killed the king.

Gyges married the queen and became king himself.

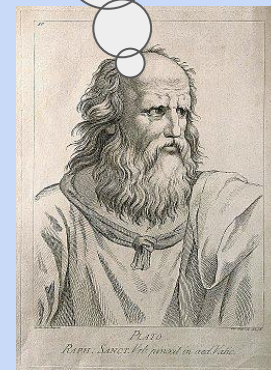
And they lived happily ever after.

What would you do if you could be invisible? What would someone do if they could be invisible?

Could you live happily ever after if you had killed someone?

Is it wrong to steal from the dead?

Can it be right to talk about people behind their backs?



To do - watch the clip and discuss the questions.



Do bunnies hop or jump?

Is it right to make bunnies jump?

Do animals exist for us?

To do - remind yourselves of the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', then consider the following.



Should Goldilocks have been arrested?

No. 22

To do - Can you prove I'm lying?



To do - Consider the following.



If a broom has had four heads and six handles, is it still the same broom?

Most of the atoms in your body are not the same ones that made you up as a baby and will not be there when you are old. But are you still the same person?

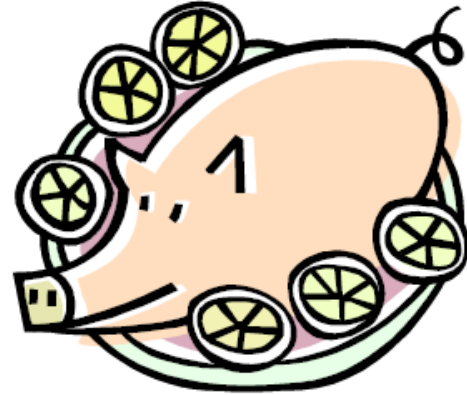
No. 24

To do - Consider the following.

Should we eat Elvira?

It's the year 2200. Like most people, you're a vegetarian.

So you're shocked to find that Elvira, an intelligent, talking pig you met the other day has had herself delivered to your door with a selection of trimmings and a recipe.



Elvira has been genetically engineered to be talkative, tasty and very keen to be eaten. You've always rather liked the smell of bacon, but have never eaten meat for ethical reasons. But if Elvira *wants* to be eaten...

www.thephilosophyman.com

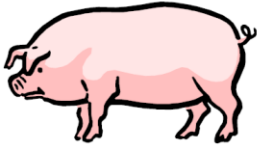
Source: Douglas Adams Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy

To do - Noah has charged you with picking the last pair of animals to go on the Ark and survive the great flood.

In pairs select one animal and get ready to justify your choice!



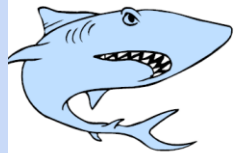
owl



pig



cow



shark



parrot



tiger



songbird



bat



snake



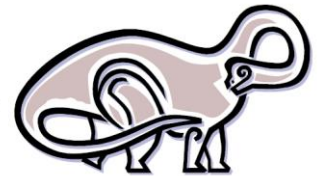
dragonfly



rhinoceros



tyrannosaurus



brontosaurus

To do - Watch the clip.

*Should prison be about
punishment or rehabilitation?*



To do - As a class, read the tale of one and a half cities.

Once there was a city full of fine things. The people lived in great houses. They had rich clothes and beautiful jewels. But they were troubled.

Sometimes thieves would come down from the hills and steal their jewels. Sometimes, the water would rise up from the river, fill their houses with mud and ruin their clothes. So they built a great wall around the city, to keep out the thieves and the water. But sometimes the thieves climbed the wall and still stole their things. And sometimes the water crept through the ground under the wall, and still filled their houses. They could not decide what to do.



No. 27

To do - As a class, read the tale of one and a half cities.

One day, some strangers came from a far off city. The people told them their troubles. "We have no problems like that in our city," said the strangers.

"Do you have a wall that goes higher than our wall, to keep the thieves out?"

"No," said the strangers.

"Do you have a wall that goes deeper than our wall, to keep the water out?"

"No," said the strangers.

"Then how do you keep your city safe from thieves and floods?"

"You must come and see for yourselves," said the strangers.

So some of them did.



To do - As a class, read the tale of one and a half cities.

They travelled for many days along the river. At last, they reached a place with hundreds of little huts. Each hut had wooden walls, and a wooden floor, and a wooden roof. "You call this a city? There are no fine buildings."

"We do without them," said the strangers.

"And you have no fine clothes or jewels."

"We do without them," said the strangers.

"And you have no walls to keep out the thieves and the flood."

"We do without them," said the strangers.

But the visitors noticed that each of the huts was tied to a great post sunk into the earth
"At least we don't have to worry about people stealing our houses!" they laughed to other.



To do - Consider the following.

Would a world where superheroes existed be a safer world?



No. 29

To do - Consider which of the following opposites is more desirable.

Loud vs Quiet

Solitude vs. Sociability

Young vs. Old

Fear vs. Courage

Spending vs. Saving

Slow vs. Fast

Stretch - can you think of anymore?

To do - Think, Pair, Share.

What are you most proud of this year?

What are you most looking forward to next year?

If you could thank one person for their help this year who would it be?

Stretch - What advice would you give to the new Year 7s?

To do - Think, Pair, Share.

If you could talk to one animal, what would it be and why?

If you could teach an animal a single word, what would it be and why?

Is talk the best kind of communication?



To do - Thought provoking questions.

Is it possible to do absolutely nothing?

If there are aliens do they have the same idea of right and wrong as we do?

If scientists created a robot that behaved just like a human, would it have feelings, and should I treat it kindly?



To do - What's in the news?

Read

This week gas shortages have led to fears in the meat industry that Christmas Turkeys and other meats will be short this Christmas. The worry is that many families will miss out on their traditional dinners. However some have hailed this as a wake-up call, we can no longer eat so much meat if we are to tackle climate change.

Discuss

What is a tradition?

Where do traditions come from?

Why do people protect traditions?

Should we wave goodbye to some traditions?

Scottish Daily Mail
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020 70p

Families' festive plans in tatters as Sturgeon's medical chief declares large get-togethers a 'fiction' — and warns Scots should prepare for a 'digital' celebration

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS IS CANCELLED

SCOTS face cancelling their Christmas plans after a top government adviser warned there would be no large family gatherings over the festive period. Professor Jacob Lethbridge yesterday

By Rachel Watson
Deputy Scottish Political Editor

insisted that people should get their digital Christmas ready as the idea of normality is a fiction. The Wellcome charity director said there was "absolutely no question of" big family gatherings being allowed.

Dramming the hopes of thousands of families who will now be forced to arrange their Christmas dinners, he warned: "The biggest Christmas now will get a digital family Christmas. But Christmas is just going to be normal. There is absolutely no question about that."

Sturgeon's medical chief said: "There's already a ban on visiting other homes, with multiple families coming round — that is forbidden for this period. I don't expect that if we can get ourselves down to a normal practice, we will be able to get some form of normality."

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Turn to Page 6

No. 34

To do - What's in the news?

Read

Iceland has made history by becoming the first European country to elect a female majority to parliament.

52% of the 63 seats in the Althingi parliament, have been won by women.

In the UK women make up just 34% of the parliament.

Discuss

Why does being able to vote matter?

What happens if women don't have a voice?

Which British women would you want to be Prime Minister?

Iceland elects Europe's first female majority parliament

© 19 minutes ago



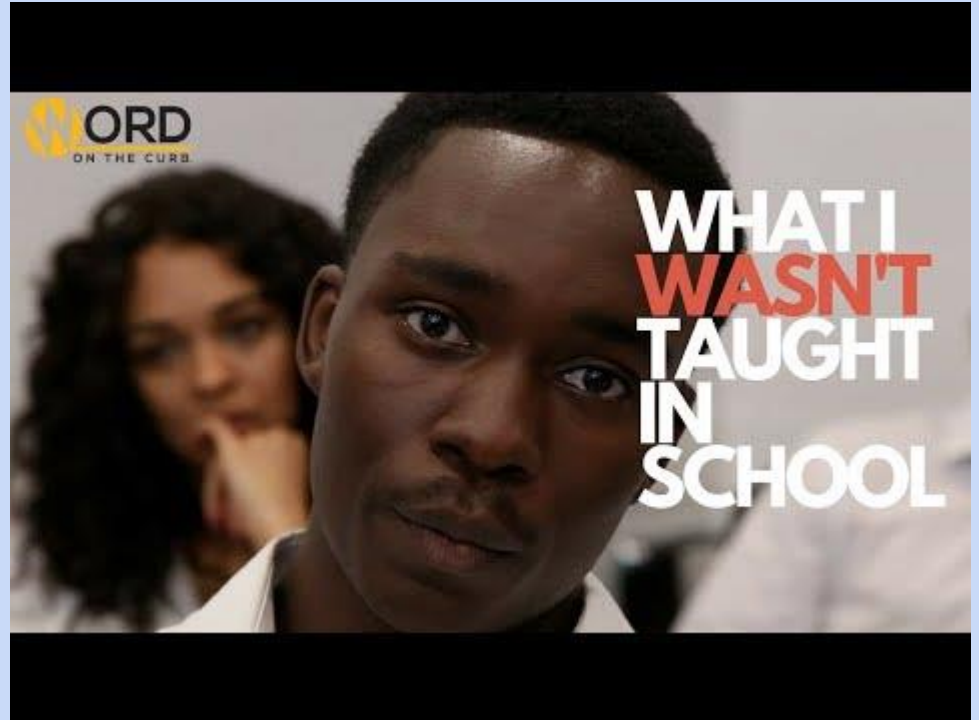
To do - Black History Takeover.

Discuss

Why does knowledge matter?

Who controls knowledge?

Why does black history matter?



To do - Black History Takeover.

This is Huey P Newton a prominent African American revolutionary who co-founded the Black Panthers. In 1966 he wrote a 10 point programme, here are just 3 of his demands:

- *We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black and oppressed communities.*
- *We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this **decadent** American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present-day society.*
- *We want an immediate end to all wars of aggression.*

Discuss

Identify words you don't know the meaning of.

Why do you think Newton linked all wars to the struggle against racism?

Why do you think Newton sees education as a way of undoing racism?

What would you demand of the government if you were given the power?



To do - What is COP26 and why does it matter?

Discuss one of the following -

Would you give up meat to save the planet?

Would you spend more on clothes to save the planet?

Would you ban tourism to reduce air travel?



No. 38

To do - Work through the questions on freedom with your partner.

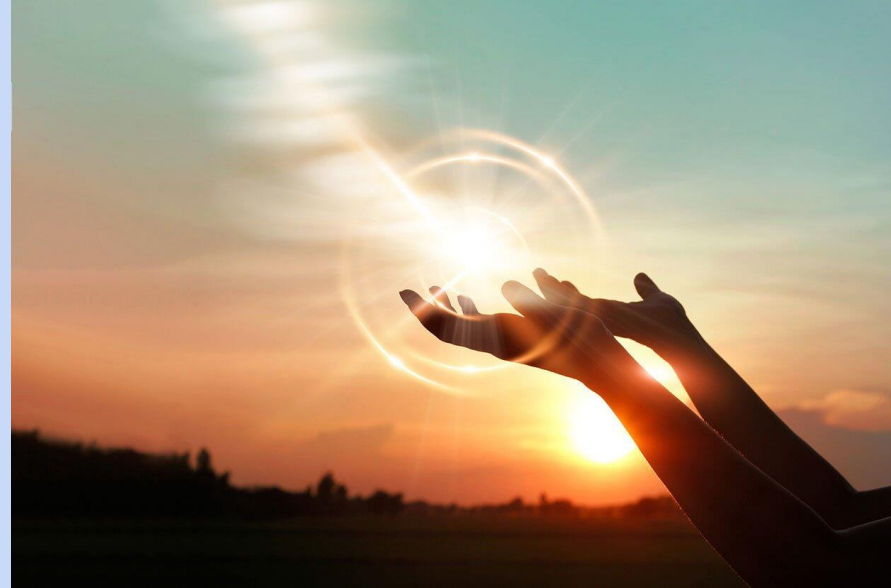
What is freedom?

What is it like to be free?

How do you know if you are free?

How important is freedom?

Stretch - Does school help or hinder freedom?



No. 39

To do - "With great power comes great responsibility".

Is there such thing as destiny?

Would Peter Parker have become Spider-Man if Uncle Ben hadn't died?

Does that mean Uncle Ben is the real hero?

Stretch - If you could get the powers of any animal what would it be?



To do - Should we study Drill music in our English lessons?



Stretch - Write your own two word poem.

To do - Christmas special

Can you prove that Father Christmas isn't real?

Why don't we all wish for an end to world hunger?

Is Christmas unfair?

Stretch question - How much goes to waste at Christmas?



To do - What if? What if? What if...

First question:

If you win the lottery, but someone else gave you the winning ticket, do they deserve any of the winnings?

Follow up questions -

What if they're already rich?

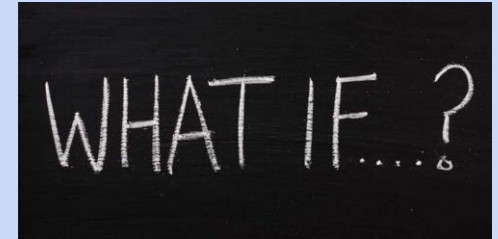
What if you paid them back for the ticket?

What if you take turns buying each other a ticket?

What if they stole the ticket?

What if they found the ticket on the floor?

Stretch - think of another scenario you could debate before thinking of a range of What ifs that could force you to change position.



To do - What's in the news?

The government are trying to pass a law that all but bans protesting in the UK.

It gives the police powers to shut down protests for things like: too much noise and causing disruption to roads.

Work through the following questions as a class:

What is protest?

Can you think of any famous protests?

Aren't protests supposed to be annoying?

Stretch - What would you protest for?



To do - What is antisemitism?

This Thursday is Holocaust memorial day.

To understand the Holocaust you must understand the concept of antisemitism.

Similar to your history lessons learning the historical roots of ideas like racism is essential.

Watch the clip and memorise 2 key facts.



To do - Scattergories

You will be given a random letter by your form tutor.

You will then have 2 mins to come up with a list of words beginning with that letter in each of the 12 categories.

The idea is that no-one else says your word. So try to think outside of the box.

1 point if someone else has your word.

2 points if no-one else has your word.

Stretch - repeat with a different letter and if time come with different categories as a class.

List 1

1. BEVERAGE
2. MAMMAL
3. SOMETHING YOU DRIVE
4. CITY
5. FREE ACTIVITY
6. SOMEPLACE YOU SPEND MONEY
7. CARTOON CHARACTER
8. SEA CREATURE
9. COMEDY MOVIE
10. CHILDREN'S BOOK
11. DESSERT
12. A BOY'S NAME

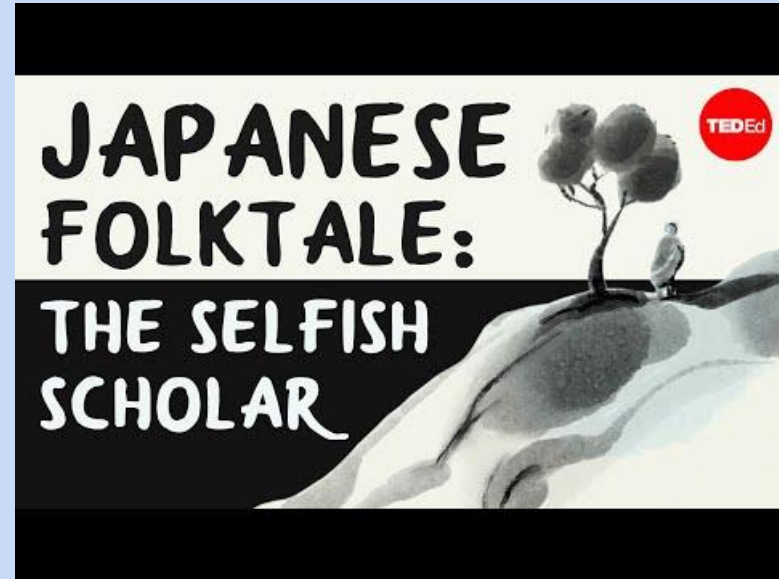
To do - The Selfish Scholar

What do you think the meaning of this story is?

Can/Should we lead isolated lives to avoid suffering?

If you ignore those in need or pain in the world, can you keep it from bothering you?

Can you have good without bad?



To do - Is Nature Beautiful?

1. Is this beautiful?
2. If I tell you this is the sound of water trickling through the levels of a sewage processing station, is it beautiful?
3. If I tell you this is the sound of a mountain stream tumbling over rocks, is it beautiful?
4. Is it beautiful now? (Show the video)



To do - How much can you change and still be you?

You could change clothes and still be you.

Dye your hair and still be you.

But could you lose all your memories and still be you?

Have your mind uploaded to a computer and still be you?

Have two of you and one of you still be you?

And are you still the same you you were when you started reading this, or have you changed, or both?

After all, very roughly 100 million of the cells in your body will have been replaced with new ones by the time you've finished reading this.

How much can you change and still be you?



To do - Secrets.

What makes secrets valuable?

Is humanity better off with secrets or without them?

Can an honest person keep secrets?



To do - Discuss the following.

There is a famous story about a mirror that shows your deepest desires. It is actually a supernatural version of the bible story which states God can truly see all our desires.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

If the happiest person alive looked into this mirror, they would see only themselves.

Stretch - Is it wrong to have desires?



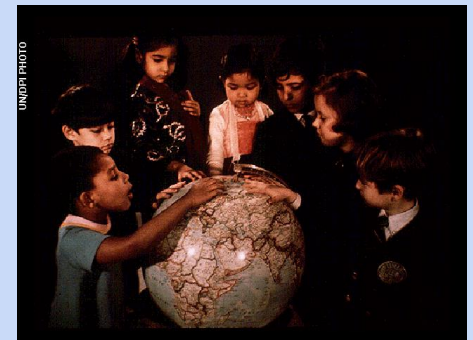
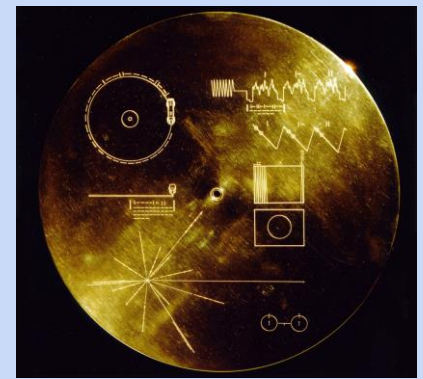
To do - Discuss the following.

This gold record disc was sent into space to teach Aliens about earth in 1971. It was sent by NASA. It features 116 images including the ones you see.

What pictures/photos would you pick to be sent to space now?

Who should decide what the planet shows to Aliens?

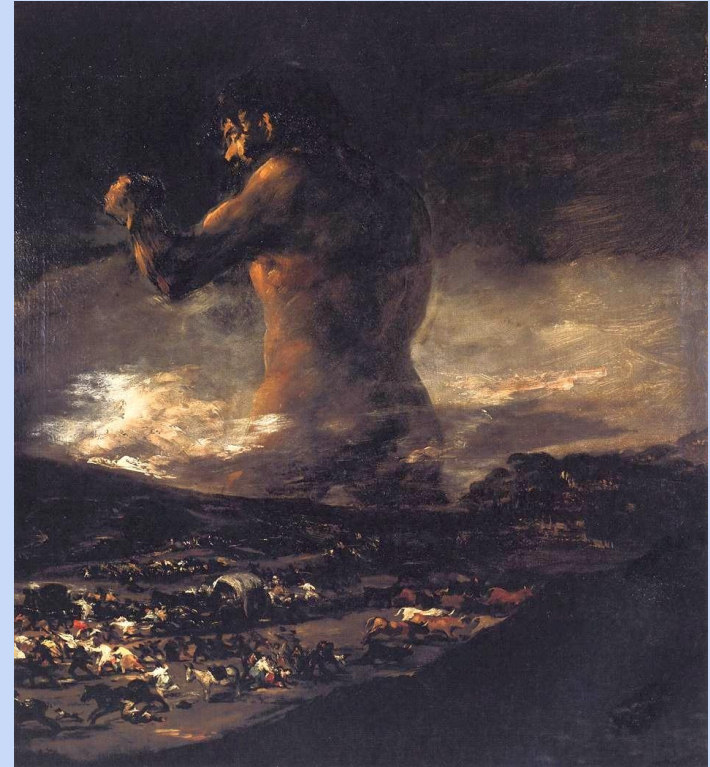
Why do we bother searching for other life?



To do - Discuss the following.

What if giants were real?

- What advantages would they have over average sized people?
- What disadvantages?
- How would society be different to how it is?
- How should society be different to how it is?



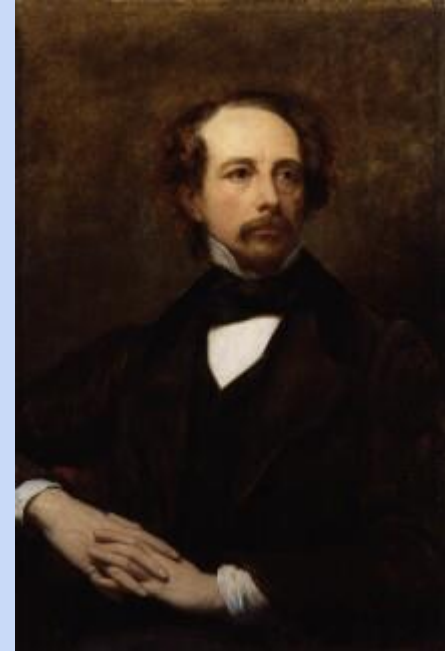
To do - Discuss the following, should we remove Dicken's from the GCSE?

Despite his descriptions of cruelty and harshness in Victorian London, Charles Dickens was a defender of the infamous Jamaican Governor Eyre who had violently suppressed a revolt by freed slaves in Morant Bay.

In 1865 a group of farmers from Morant Bay, Jamaica rebelled against the harsh colonial conditions on the island. Governor Eyre responded with a campaign of ruthless violence that lasted 30 days. Troops killed over 400 people, including children and pregnant women, at least 600 people were flogged and over 1000 homes were burned.

The event divided British politics and marked a pivotal moment in the violent racism that continued in the post-abolition period. John Stuart Mill led the Jamaica Committee that, supported by Charles Darwin among others, demanded Eyre's trial for murder.

Dickens, Matthew Arnold and John Ruskin, supported the Eyre Defence Committee that aimed to raise £10,000 for the Governor's legal expenses. They were successful and Eyre was acquitted of murder, because, it was said, his crime only involved "half people".



Stretch - Does it matter what people think, if what they do is good/bad?

To do - Discuss the following.

Do we dress for ourselves or for others?

- Are there situations where you don't wear what you want? Does that necessarily mean you are dressing for others?
- Why might someone wear the same outfit every day?

Steve Jobs



To do - Watch the following.

Should we allow this?



To do - Consider the following in pairs and then as a form.

This is Austin Davies and for the last 17 years he has only eaten Mac and Cheese!!!!

- *Is he doing anything wrong?*
- *Should we vilify him?*
- *Is variety really the spice of life?*



To do - Consider the following in pairs and then as a form.

The Platinum Jubilee is set to cost the UK taxpayer £28 million. Is this a good use of the money?

The Queen has no power to make laws - this is a job of a government voted for by the public. If she has no power, do you think she is still needed?



Photo from Golden Jubilee

To do - Figure out the Riddles.

2. What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?

3. What gets wetter as it dries?

5. What belongs to you but is used by others?

4. What has a neck but no Head?

6. What has a thumb and four fingers but is not alive?

7. What has to be broken before you can use it?

9. What grows when you feed it but dies when you water it?

To do - Duck sized Lions.

Would you rather fight 100 duck sized lions or 1 lion sized duck?

Would you rather fight 100 rabbit sized killer whales or one killer whale sized rabbit?

Make up your own as a class.



To do - Read then discuss the following questions.

371 years ago the English overthrew their King. This brought an end to the belief that Kings were chosen by God.

94 years ago all men and women over the age of 21 in the UK got the right to vote. This brought an end to the period where only men and wealthy women could vote.

Discuss -

What is Power?

Where does Power come from?

How should we decide who has power over us?

Stretch - Why shouldn't you (Year 10) be able to vote?



To do - Settlement.

In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue, and discovered the Caribbean and Americas.

Thus beginning the long history of Europeans settling in and colonising the *new world*.

It is estimated that over 90% of indigenous people died in the years that followed.

The question is:

- ❖ *If you discover a place, can you settle there?*
- ❖ *Can something be new if it has always existed?*



New world = the countries that the Europeans hadn't known were there e.g. Jamaica, North/South America.

To do - What is in a name?

This is John. John Tuthill. Only it isn't, this isn't his real name. John is one of 1000s of children who grew up in Ireland at a time where it was common for children born out of wedlock to be taken from their parents and given to new families.

John does not know who his real parents are, where he was born, what his heritage is and most importantly what his real name is...

Consider the following:

- *Why are names significant?*
- *Why do you think John and others are campaigning to find out their real names?*
- *Is your name the most important aspect of your identity?*



To do - Who should pay? Why?

For hospitals?

For schools?

For new clothes?

For heating?

For war?

For food?

For housing?

For roads?

To fix the environment?



The UK and USA have been accused of owing hundreds of billions of dollars to help fight climate change. The argument is, they caused the mess so they should pay more.

Therefore we ask, who should pay?



To do - explore the following concept.

Is the UK kafkaesque?



To do - Should we boycott the World Cup?

6,500 migrant workers have died in Qatar since the World Cup was awarded.

Many of these deaths have been down to the horrific conditions workers were forced to live and work in.

Mohammad Shahid Miah, 29, from Bangladesh, died when floodwater in his room came into contact with an exposed electric cable, electrocuting him.

The question is, is it morally right to support a world cup built on the deaths of so many migrant workers?



Boycott - withdraw from commercial or social relations with (a country, organization, or person) as a punishment or protest.

To do - Work through the questions about this quote.

What does it mean?

What if we took it seriously and not as a metaphor?

What if everyone in history followed this advice?

Is there any wisdom in this quote?

How would you reword it to make it more positive?



To do - Watch Vox's 2022 summary.

What are your reflections on 2022?



To do - Consider the following.

Are children more free than adults?

Prompts

1. Physical freedom - the ability to move or travel where they wish
2. Financial freedom - the ability to buy what they want to
3. Thinking freedom - the ability to make up their own mind about what is right/wrong



Activity 1

To do: Watch the video and answer the questions below.

1. What happened to Martin?
2. Who helped Martin?
3. Who **COULD** have helped Martin, but didn't?
4. How could other governments have intervened to help Martin and his family?



To do - Consider the following.

If life is about survival of
the fittest then...

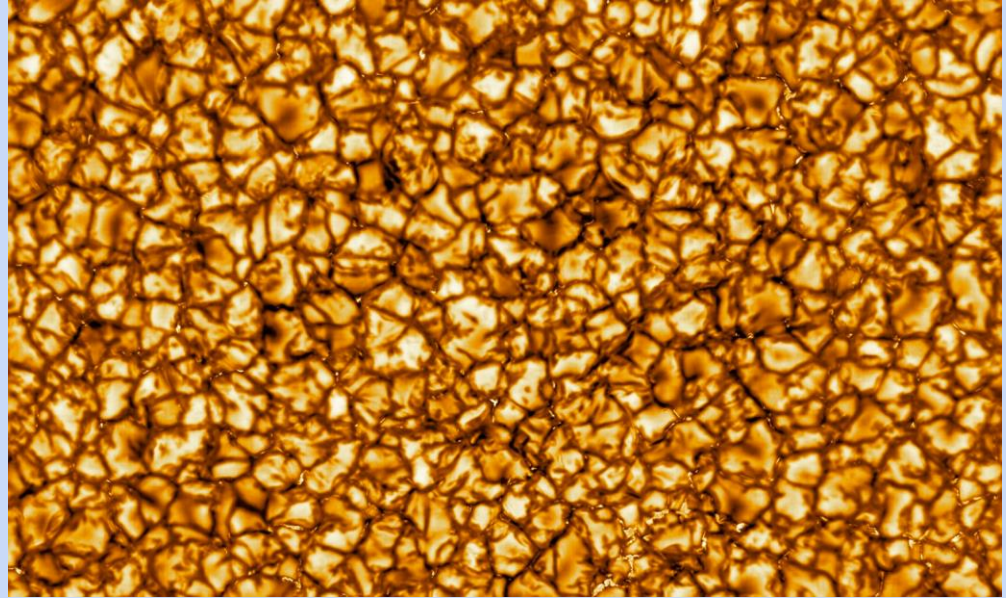
*Why do humans rescue
each other?*



To do - Consider the following.

This is the most high resolution image ever taken of our sun!

- Is space exploration worth the cost when there are problems on Earth?
- Should space exploration be paused? If so, for how long?
- What kind of mission would it be justifiable to go on?



To do - Who should be invited to the King's coronation?

The coronation in this country is where our monarch is officially crowned. It is an ancient ritual and traditionally was only attended by the most important people in society.

Should we:

- Be spending money on this coronation?
- Inviting celebrities to this coronation?
- Watching this coronation?

Harry and Meghan weigh up coronation invitation

12 hours ago



Coronation of King Charles III



To do - Why do people protest?

The UK has been hit by a wave of protests recently. Many of these protesters are targeting sporting events. For example, protesters for Just Stop Oil tried and failed to tie themselves to goal posts during a premier league match.

The question is:

- Why do people protest?
- Why do some people think it is positive?
- Why do some people think it is negative?

Stretch - Do you think protests are more or less likely to occur in a democracy?

