



EduTrend Contents

P4C · HAPPINESS AND THE GOOD LIFE · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Is a Good Person Always Happy?

Happiness, goodness and fairness

Ages 12–14

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 04

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 04 · AT A GLANCE

Is a Good Person Always Happy?

Students read two invented stories: Asha always helps others but has a hard year, and Kai is selfish but seems to get everything he wants. Students discuss who is happier and who has the better life. They create questions and enquire into whether being good and being happy go together.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- compare happiness and goodness;
- analyse cases;
- reason about fairness;
- build a justified view.

KEY WORDS

good · happy · fair · deserve ·
character · life

CURRICULUM LINKS

RE and ethics: values. English:
characters and motives. PSHE:
wellbeing.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to
think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose
a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree,
add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Asha and Kai story cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people,
and use the story or invented examples rather
than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 04 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Read the stories of Asha and Kai.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Is a good person always happy?"</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Decide who has the better life and justify it.

ACTIVITY 04 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Ancient philosophers such as Plato argued that being just is better for a person than being unjust.

Others note that good people sometimes suffer while others do well, which raises questions about fairness.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Good people are always rewarded.” Not always.
- “Getting what you want means a good life.” Many disagree.
- “Happiness and goodness are the same.” They can come apart.

Adapting the activity

Support

Compare one story only.

Stretch

Write a third story that challenges the class view.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Asha and Kai

Compare.

Asha and Kai

Question	Asha	Kai
Happy?		
Good?		
Better life?		

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Who has the better life, Asha or Kai? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Is a Good Person Always Happy? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Happiness and the Good Life programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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