



EduTrend Contents

P4C · THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS · PRIMARY

The Wishing Box

Imagining one wish for the whole class opens a first “what if” enquiry

Ages 5–7

Level: Foundation

30 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 01

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

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

The Wishing Box

The facilitator shows a decorated box and says: “Imagine this box could grant one wish, but the wish would come true for everyone in our class.” Children think quietly, then share their wishes. They notice that a wish for sweets or toys might not be good for everyone. They suggest questions and vote on one, such as “What is the best thing to wish for everyone?”

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- imagine a “what if” situation;
- share and compare wishes;
- give a reason;
- listen to others.

KEY WORDS

imagine · what if · wish · everyone · good · choose

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: thinking about others.
English: imaginative talk. Art: decorating the box.

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)

- A decorated box
- 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 01 · 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
0–5 min Stimulus	Show the wishing box and explain the rule.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
5–12 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
12–26 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“What is the best thing to wish for everyone?”</i>
26–30 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)

Choose a wish for everyone and explain why it would help the whole class.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

A thought experiment asks us to imagine a situation to test an idea.

Imagining a wish for everyone helps children think beyond themselves.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Imagining is just pretending.” It helps us think.
- “My favourite thing is best for everyone.” Others may differ.
- “Wishes can’t be wrong.” Some could cause problems.

Adapting the activity

Support

Offer picture wish cards.

Stretch

Ask: could a wish ever be bad for someone?

WORKSHEET 1

My wish

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw and explain.

My wish

My wish	Good for everyone because...

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Is a good wish for me always good for everyone? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

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

Pupil	Imagines a situation	Gives a reason	Listens to others

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

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The Wishing Box is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Thought Experiments programme (primary, level: foundation). 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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