



EduTrend Contents

P4C · EMOTIONS AND THE MIND · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Can You See Inside Someone's Mind?

How do we know what other people think and feel?

Ages 11–13

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 03

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

ACTIVITY 03 · AT A GLANCE

Can You See Inside Someone's Mind?

Students play a short guessing game with invented character cards showing faces and situations, such as someone smiling while losing a race. They discuss how they guessed and when they were unsure. They create questions and enquire into whether we can ever truly know what is in someone else's mind.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- explain how we infer feelings;
- identify evidence and uncertainty;
- reason about other minds;
- show respect in discussion.

KEY WORDS

mind · think · clue · evidence · hide · empathy

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: empathy. English: inference in reading. Science: communication.

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)

- Character cards
- Clue sheet
- 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 03 · 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	Play the guess-the-feeling game with character cards.	<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>"Can you ever know what someone else is thinking?"</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)

Explain how sure we can be about another person's feelings.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophers call this the problem of other minds: we observe behaviour but not thoughts directly.

We usually rely on clues such as faces, words and context, which can mislead.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Faces always show true feelings.” People can hide feelings.
- “Empathy means feeling exactly the same.” It means understanding.
- “If you can’t be sure, you can’t know anything.” We can have good reasons.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use two cards.

Stretch

Ask: could an animal know what you are feeling?

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Clues and guesses

Record the game.

Clues and guesses

Card	My guess	Clues	How sure?

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Can a face tell a lie? 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

Can You See Inside Someone's Mind? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Emotions and the Mind 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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