



EduTrend Contents

P4C · ETHICS AND MORALITY · PRIMARY

The Invisible Ring

Would you still be good if you could never be caught? A thought experiment for older primary pupils

Ages 8–11

Level: Developing

45 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 02

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

ACTIVITY 02 · AT A GLANCE

The Invisible Ring

Pupils imagine finding a ring that makes the wearer invisible. The idea comes from an old philosophical story told by Plato. In pairs they list what people might do with it, then create questions and vote on one, such as “Would you still be good if you could never be caught?” The enquiry explores why we do the right thing and whether rules or kindness matter more.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- explore a thought experiment;
- distinguish being good from avoiding punishment;
- give reasons and examples;
- build on others’ ideas.

KEY WORDS

thought experiment · temptation · rule · punishment · character · reason

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: making good choices.
English: persuasive talk. History: ancient Greece.

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)

- Ring picture card
- Sticky notes
- 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 02 · 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	Describe the invisible ring thought experiment.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–18 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
18–40 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Would you still be good if you could never be caught?"</i>
40–45 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 whether you would still be good with the ring, and answer one friend's counter-example.

ACTIVITY 02 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

A thought experiment asks “what if?” to test an idea in the imagination.

Philosophers have long asked whether people act well because it is right or because they fear being caught.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Only bad people would misuse it.” Anyone can be tempted.
- “Rules are only about punishment.” Rules can protect people.
- “Good means obedient.” Good can mean caring too.

Adapting the activity

Support

Give sentence starters.

Stretch

Ask: is there anything you would do only when invisible?

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

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.

Why do people do the right thing? 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	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

The Invisible Ring is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Ethics and Morality programme (primary, level: developing). 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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