

INTRODUCTION

READING, THINKING AND LITERACY is a collection of thinking activities based upon contemporary fiction written for young people in grades 7-12.

The activities often require students to take a standpoint the same as or analagous to that held by a character in a book. Thus, while it is not necessary to read the book in order to do the activities, each may be used as a pre-reading tie-in to the novel on which it is based.

The activities are designed to develop the empathy and rational thinking that are required in combination for moral reasoning and action. While the utility of contemporary adolescent literature within the moral education curriculum is recognized, so too is the need for selectivity in choice of titles, and for a guided approach to the moral dilemmas presented. It is hoped that one function of this book will be to aid teachers in bringing such titles into the classroom.

Ideally, higher-order thinking is not approached as an isolated subject, but is integrated within the whole curriculum to meet the needs of the students in a given class. Thus, it is expected that the activities will be used in as many ways, in as many combinations, as there are different classrooms.

This book is organized alphabetically by thinking skill. Thus, when a student or a class demonstrates a need for a particular skill the teacher can locate it in this text and immediately introduce the skill. Application of the steps involved in the skill is then provided using quality teen literature.

Help is what this book is intended to be, help in providing instruction and practice in essential thinking skills and help in bringing teens and books together in a happy relationship.

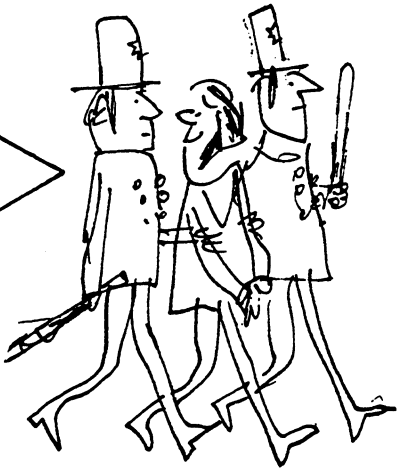
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WHAT IS THINKING!



Thinking begins with

A question
A need
A problem

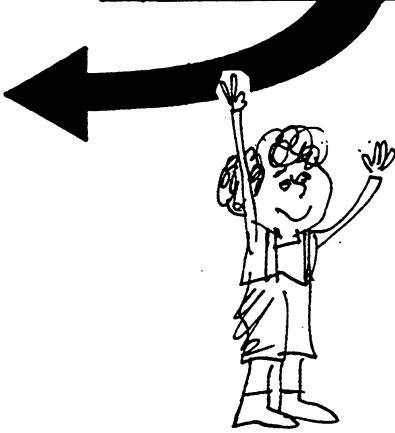


Good thinking uses skills of

Analysis	Interpretation
Association	Observation
Attribute listing	Planning
Classification	Predicting
Comparison	Problem-solving
Concepts	Questioning
Deduction	Synthesizing
Evaluation	Theorizing
Flexibility	
Fluency	and
Forecasting	
Generalizing	more!
Hypothesizing	


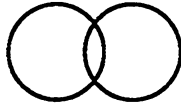
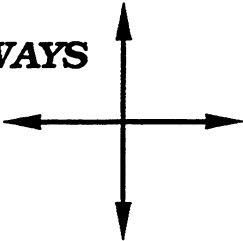


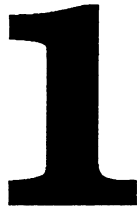




Good Thinking results in:
new skills,
concepts, decisions,
actions, discoveries,
new ideas or
methods
or
new problems
questions or needs.



WHO NEEDS THINKING SKILLS?

Typical student responses which are evidence of faulty thinking!

<p>INA IMPULSIVE</p>  <p>Goes with the first idea regardless of consequences.</p> <p>Skill(s) needed: Decision-making, problem-solving, analysis, forecasting.</p>	<p>DANNY DEPENDENT</p>  <p>Always needs help.</p> <p>Skill(s) needed: Productive thinking, fluency, flexibility, originality, logic, inductive and deductive thinking.</p>
<p>AL ALL WAYS</p>  <p>Goes all directions at once – never reaches the goal.</p> <p>Skill(s) needed: Deductive thinking, planning, analysis, problem-solving.</p>	<p>RITA RIGID</p>  <p>Uses only learned information.</p> <p>Skill(s) needed: Divergent thinking, ADI, associative thinking, elaboration, perceptual thinking.</p>
<p>BELINDA BELIEVER</p>  <p>Believes everything written must be true.</p> <p>Skill(s) needed: Critical thinking, hypothesizing, creative thinking, evaluation.</p>	<p>ROBERT RIGHT</p>  <p>Sticks to his idea regardless of evidence.</p> <p>Skill(s) needed: Analysis, synthesis, brainstorming, comparing, creative thinking, evaluation.</p>
<p>FRED FEAR</p>  <p>Never responds – fear of being wrong.</p> <p>Skill(s) needed: Productive thinking, deductive thinking, problem solving.</p>	<p>DORA DENSE</p>  <p>Usual comment – “I don’t understand.”</p> <p>Skill(s) needed: Conceptualization, abstract thinking, interpretation, deductive thinking.</p>

Exploring An Abstract Concept

CAPITALISM

Quiz! Are you a capitalist?

Complete this questionnaire

A. We live in a society based on the buying and selling of goods, services and merchandise.
agree ____ disagree ____

B. In a capitalist society a man or woman's worth is based on how much money that person has amassed.
agree ____ disagree ____

C. For the average American, what is *most* important in life is to get a well paying job, to own a better-than-average house, drive a better-than-average car, and own better-than-average personal items (clothes, stereo, etc.).
agree ____ disagree ____

D. Allowing each person to earn as much money as he or she is capable of earning is better than working together and sharing income equally.
agree ____ disagree ____

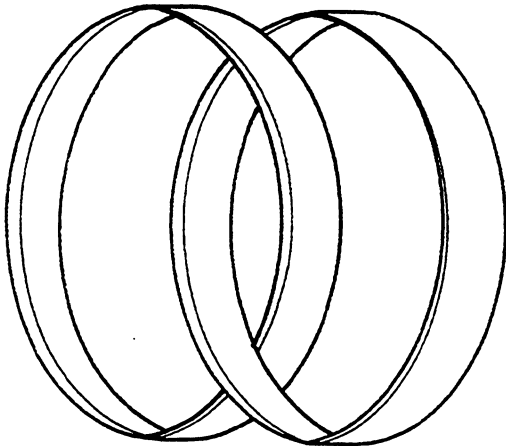
E. Working in private enterprise is better than working for the government.
agree ____ disagree ____

Key: If you agreed with most of these statements, you are a capitalist!

Define: CAPITALISM _____

Read: DEATH OF A SALESMAN by Arthur Miller, Viking Press, 1949. (Senior High) or DR. DREDD'S WAGON OF WONDERS by Bill Brittain, Harper & Row, 1987. (Middle School, Junior High)

Friendship



Friendship is an abstract term. While you may see in the actions of others some evidence of friendship, it is not a concrete idea.

Imagine that you feel as if hardly anyone is being a friend to you, and that nearly everyone from your parents and sisters to your best friend is stepping on your rights. Remember that to have friends you must be a friend.

WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF FRIENDSHIP?

The first three questions on the quiz below attempt to define some of these qualities. Add two additional questions which help to describe a good friend. Develop a scoring key and ask others to take the quiz.

Read: CAN YOU SUE YOUR PARENTS FOR MALPRACTICE? by Paula Danziger. Delacorte Press, 1979.

FRIENDSHIP QUIZ

Part One: Sisters As Friends

1. If my sister wanted me to listen to some bad jokes she had made up I would a) pretend I didn't hear her; b) tell her to get lost; c) pretend she was one of the greatest comedians I had ever heard; d) _____
2. If I had to share my room with a sloppy sister I would a) offer to help her clean up; b) tell her she was a pig ; c) try to annoy her by being just as sloppy; d) _____
3. If my younger sister told me she was disappointed that our mother had said she couldn't have a training bra, I would a) laugh and snort; b) give her my old one; c) try to convince my mother to change her mind; d) _____

Part Two: Other Friends

4.

5.

Scoring: