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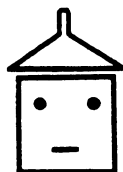
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Introduction

One afternoon some years ago, while working with a group of year three students, I asked a question that went something like this:

“You need to buy five loaves of bread for a picnic. The loaves are big, and only two will fit into one bag. How many bags will you need in order to carry the bread?”

I was more than a little surprised when several of the youngsters answered, “2 1/2 bags.” Good maths but bad thinking! It turned out just a couple of them grasped the idea that three bags would be needed.

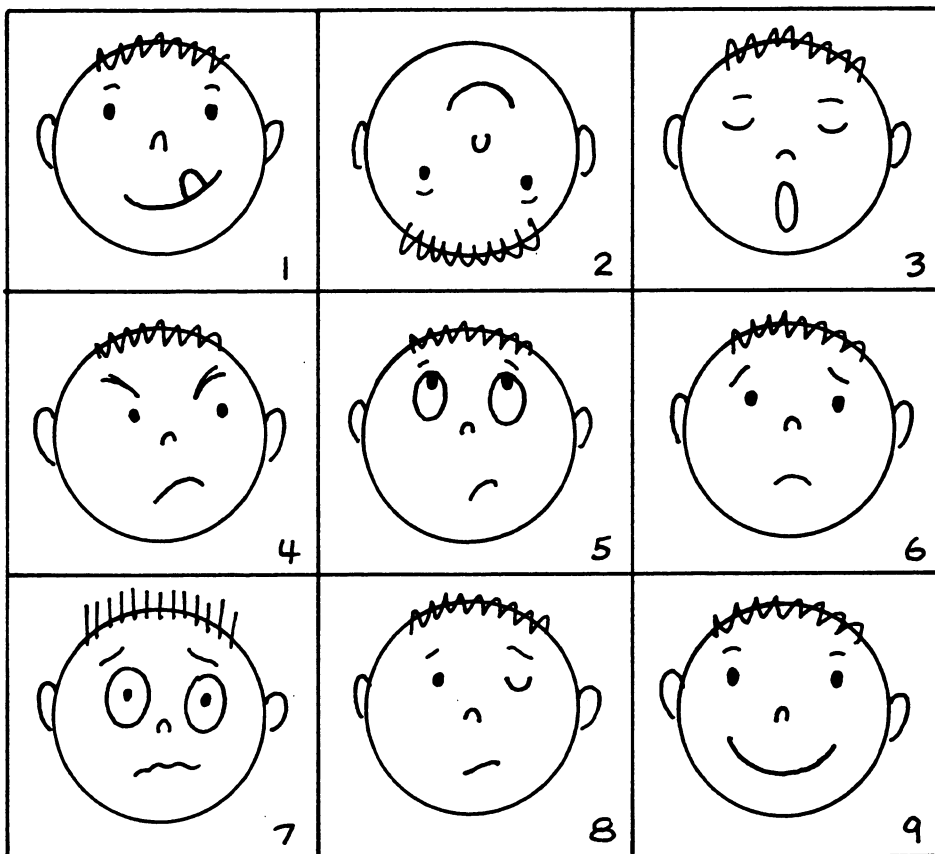
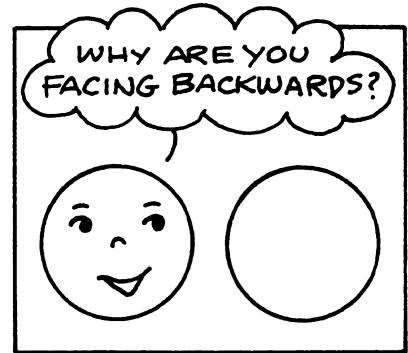
In school, we teach handwriting, spelling, reading, maths, science, etc., but thinking—the process of making use of knowledge—is often neglected. As educators, it is our duty to help students learn how to analyse information, draw inferences, generate ideas, make connections, and solve problems.

This book addresses these needs by providing a structured, 30-week program of short thinking exercises that are interesting to children and very easy for you to implement. Those of you who already use Tin Man Press materials may notice some familiar themes. However, all of the activities are brand-new.

Which Face?

Name _____

What expression are you wearing on your face right now as you read this? Let's hope it is more like the Number 9 face than the Number 4 face. Match the pictures with the words.



1. I have something in my eye. _____
2. I'm very tired. _____
3. This is a scary movie. _____
4. I like to stand on my head. _____
5. I don't feel so good. _____
6. I'm glad it is Saturday. _____
7. I hope that ball doesn't land on me. _____
8. You stop that! _____
9. Mmm. I'm going to eat all that pizza. _____