



ask it

Book list

Communities of Enquiry
SAPERE 

Stimuli for philosophical enquiry

Compiled by Lisa Naylor AST in P4C and Paul Jackson NPQH
Incorporates Thinking Books to use as stimuli for Philosophical Enquiry
List compiled by Alison Hall updated version 2005

alison@thinkingforum.freeserve.co.uk
lnaylor@gallions.newham.sch.uk
pjackson@gallions.newham.sch.uk

Picture books for younger children

A Letter To Granny

Paul Rogers/John Prater, *Red Fox*

Imagination, dreams, child relationships with parents and grandparents

All The Magic In The World

Wendy Hartmann, *Red Fox*

Set in rural South Africa
Wonder, happiness, disability, poverty, junk or jewels?

Dr. Xargle's Book Of Earthlets

Jeanne Willis/Tony Ross, *Red Fox*

An alien perspective of babies/children.

In The Attic

Hiawyn Oram/Satoshi Kitamura, *Anderson Press*

Being bored, creating 'places to play', belief, imagination.

Mr. Bear And The Bear

Frances Thomas/Ruth Brown, *Red Fox*

Freedom, animal rights, friendship, loneliness

Not Now Bernard

David McKee, *Red Fox*

Relationship with parents, imagination, reality

No Matter What

Debbi Gliori, *Bloomsbury*

Children's insecurity, need for love, reassurance & belonging.
Touches on death.

Solo

Paul Geraghty, *Red Fox*

Parents, the vulnerability of the young, risk taking, predators, effects of human rubbish on animal lives.

Something Else

Kathryn Cave/Chris Riddell, *Puffin*

Rejection, not fitting in, friendship, being different, norms.

The Rainbow Fish

Marcus Pfister, *North-South books*

Beauty, the most beautiful, selfishness, generosity, happiness, loneliness.

The Whales' Song

Dyan Sheldon/Gary Blythe, *Red Fox*

Make believe, believing/reality, imaginary relationships with animals.

It's Your Turn Roger

Suzanna Gretz, *Picture Lions*

Taking turns, fairness, other family's rules, being part of a family.

Where The Wild Things Are

Maurice Sendak, *Picture Puffin*

Child rage, imagination, questions reality.

Would You Rather ...

John Burningham

Choices you wouldn't normally be asked to make (humorous).

Many fairy tales work well as stimuli for enquiries, with the advantage that they can be used in role play; I often use the Pied Piper, but the Frog prince, the Babes in the Wood, the Wild Swans and the Little Match Girl are all suitable.

When selecting traditional stories remember to search for stories with many lines of enquiry, offering plenty of choice for children posing questions.

Picture books for older children

Probably more suitable at KS2 or for able KS1 children

A country Far Away

Nigel Gary/Phillippe Dupasquier, *Magi publications*

Often in 2 languages

A contrast of life for a child in an African village and in 1970's Britain. Similarity and difference in everyday life, cultural, economic, social and environmental. Simplistic but useful to start the questions.

Becoming Me: A Story Of Creation

Martin Boroson, *Frances Lincoln*

Creation, existence, spirituality, religion, tradition, time.

Greyfriar's Bobby

Ruth Brown

Loyalty, animal friends, dying and grieving.

Higglety Pigglety Pop! Or There Must Be More To Life

Maurice Sendak, *Picture Lions*

Discontentment, experience, searching for something better, realisation.

How To Live Forever

Colin Thompson

Immortality, curiosity, knowledge

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

John Steptoe, *Hamish Hamilton*

Beauty, favouritism or apparent favouritism, perspective, jealousy, fantasy. Set in an African village.

Pumpkin Soup

Helen Cooper, *Transworld Publishers*

Sharing, friendship, caring, remorse, changing as a result of experience, or not!

The Minpins

Roald Dahl, *Penguin*

Illustrations work well alone for enquiry, particularly the fire from the monster. I use the story as a follow-up. Fear, a twist on the 'be careful stories', fantasy, magic, miniature people.

The True Story Of The Three Little Pigs

Jon Scieszka/Lane Smith, *Puffin Books*

The wolf's perspective of the traditional tale. Who is telling the truth? Perspectives, believing a story, reasons.

The Tunnel

A. Browne, *Walker Books*

Fear, brother/sister relationships, caring, growing up.

Voices In The Park

Anthony Browne, *Picture Corgi*

Perspectives, questions social and cultural viewpoints and those from the adult/child divide. Stereotypes available to question.

War Game

Michael Foreman, *Pavilion*

First world war story based on fact, war, football, friendship during conflict, killing, death.

Mayfly Day

Jeanne Willis/Tony Ross, *Andersen Press*

Mayfly has only one day to live but she enjoys every moment: mortality, making the most of life, nature, enjoyment.

Zoo

Anthony Browne, *Red Fox*

Again involves stereotypes (these need to be examined esp. 'father'.) Being trapped, captivity, freedom, relationships between adults and children in families, animals in zoos.

Collections of stories for older children

Suitable at KS2 and older

Dare To Be Different

Amnesty International, *Bloomsbury*

A collection of tales where freedom is a central theme. I use this version of the Happy Prince – Oscar Wilde, happiness, wealth, joy, love, compassion, paradise, God.

Famous Letters

Messages And Thoughts That Shaped Our World

Ed. Frank McLynn, *Reader's Digest*

Real letters on many subjects, Einstein to Roosevelt re: the atom bomb, Captain Scott to J M Barrie. A wonderful selection of thought provoking letters with good introductions/contextualisations.

Grandmother's Stories

Burleigh Muton/Sian Bailey, *Barefoot Books*

Good for making connections with other folk tales, – I use Grandmother's basket – trust, following rules, care for others, good over evil.

Just So Stories

Rudyard Kipling, *MacMillan*

Puzzles, hidden jokes, discoveries to be made on many levels.

Lines In The Sand

New Writing On War And Peace

Frances Lincoln, *Unicef*

New writing on war and peace. Frances Lincoln. Unicef. Illustrations, poetry and stories on theme of war and peace. Illustration on p.278 provokes thought.

Stories From The Silk Road

Cherry Gilchrist/Nilesh Mistry, *Barefoot books*

A celebration of Asian stories linked together by the Silk Road. I use The Bride with the horse's head folktale, – luck, wealth, happiness, hasty action, regrets, blame, Gods.

Treasury Of Children's Folklore

Brain Scott Sockin/Eileen Wong

Folklore stories from around the world, I use The Monkey and the Crocodile – it questions trust, gullibility, friendship and jealousy

Collections of stimuli for use in philosophical enquiry

Key stage 1

First Poems For Thinking

Robert Fisher, *Nash Pollock Publishing*

First Stories For Thinking

Robert Fisher, *Nash Pollock Publishing*

Storywise

Karin Murriss/J Joanna Haynes

www.dialogueworks.co.uk for details

Key stage 2

Games For Thinking

Robert Fisher, *Nash Pollock Publishing*

Newswise

Steve Williams and Roger Sutcliffe

A news/media based resource for use with year 5 & 6 to promote critical and creative thinking using enquiry.

Key stage 2 continued

Philosophy Club

Roger Sutcliffe and Steve Williams

An excellent resource for club based activities. Details from philosophy.clubs@dialogueworks.co.uk

Poems For Thinking

Robert Fisher, *Nash Pollock Publishing*

Stories For Thinking

Robert Fisher, *Nash Pollock Publishing*

The Philosophy Files

Stephen Law, *Dolphin*

A whacky young person's introduction to some of the big questions in philosophy. Set out in an accessible style, – it is parent/teacher friendly too.

Thinking Through Philosophy Books 1, 2 and 3

Paul Clegghorn, *Educational Printing Services*

Each book contains 30 session outlines which can be used to structure a key stage 2 programme.

Teacher's resources

Thinking Allowed: Philosophy for Children at Gallions Primary School

A step-by-step DVD guide to using P4C. Gallions Primary School, orders@gallions.newham.sch.uk

Children as Philosophers

Joanna Haynes, RoutledgeFalmer

An excellent book to supplement and enrich Thinking Together. This is usually one of the level 2 course recommended readings.

SAPERE Level 1 Handbook

Introduction to philosophical enquiry with resources and special interest sections which accompanies the level 1 training course. Speak to your trainer for details on extra copies.

Teaching Thinking

Robert Fisher, Continuum

Useful website:

www.sapere.net

The recognised website for teachers and educators using P4C in Britain for information, resources, conferences and training.

Other resources

Objects

- A blank piece of paper
- A lit candle
- A locked suitcase
- A lottery ticket
- A mirror
- A one day travelcard
- A pair of glasses
- A piece of a jigsaw puzzle
- A Russian Doll
- An empty photo frame
- An interesting plant i.e. lucky bamboo

Artwork

- Andy Goldsworthy – Various
- Claes Oldenburg – Various, eg The Trowel
- Golconde – Rene Magritte
- Maurits Cornelius Escher – eg Relativity
- Photographs – the earth from above
- The Persistence of memory – Salvador Dali

Quotes

- “Cogito ergo sum” – I think therefore I am, Rene Descartes
- “Poetry is more philosophical and more serious than history.” Aristotle
- “The face is the soul of the body.” Ludwig Wittgenstein
- “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Socrates
- “There is only one religion, though there are a hundred versions of it.” George Bernard Shaw

Music

- Antonio Vivaldi – The Four Seasons
- Camille Saint-Saëns – Carnival of the Animals
- Gustav Holst's Planets Suite
- John Cage – 4'33" (“four minutes, thirty-three seconds”).

Miscellaneous/Abstract

- Nothing
- Baraka: A World Beyond Words DVD
- One of the children