CONNECTING CONCEPTS

Thinking Activities for Students

ACER PRESS

Clinton Golding, ACER Press

Connecting Concepts: Thinking Activities For Students is a classroom resource to use with students in upper primary and throughout the secondary years of school. It provides teachers with discussion ideas and exercises suitable for whole class, group and individual activities. Clear guidelines, examples and sample questions are provided to aid the teacher in a step-by-step introduction to conceptual analysis in the classroom.

Clinton Golding presents concept games as a method of turning your classroom into a community of inquiry – improving students' thinking skills and ability to communicate and justify their ideas and opinions.

Concept Games:

- Are fun and engaging to use – and so attract and maintain students' attention, while at the same time developing high level thinking skills
- Can be used in a range of subject areas to promote better understanding of the essential concepts being taught
- Are easy for teachers and students to use and quickly highlight areas for consideration and clarification
- Allow students to think for themselves about concepts and come to their own understanding

Each concept game consists of a large number of cases. Each of the cases is either an example of a particular concept, an example of something that does not fall under that concept, or a borderline case. However, it is never entirely obvious which category a case falls in. Students must grapple with categorising these cases, and in the process they explore and refine their definition of the concept. The process swings easily between the concrete and the abstract. The students construct definitions and test them with concrete cases, then they can modify, accept or reject the definitions. The students agree and disagree with each other, leading to the group building up their own detailed understanding of the concept under investigation.

The Author:

Clinton Golding is a professional philosophy teacher working primarily in New Zealand. He is one of the co-founders of the New Zealand Philosophy for Children Association. He has been teaching philosophy to students from a wide range of ages and abilities for many years.

The Twelve Concept Games

Concept	Subject or Disciplines Most Relevant
Justice	Social Studies, Economics, Health
Intelligence	All subject areas
Mind	Sciences
Responsibility	Social Studies, Health
Rules	All subject areas
Racism	Social Studies, Health
Science	Sciences, Arts, History, Geography, Economics, Technology
Culture	Social Studies, History, Languages, Classics
Art	Art, Music, Drama, Art History, Classics
Violence	Social Studies, Health
Reality	Sciences, Mathematics, English, Technology
Knowledge	All subject areas

Teaching for Better Thinking

The Classroom Community of Inquiry

Laurance J Splitter and Ann Margaret Sharp, ACER

This book provides a detailed description of what the age-old discipline of philosophy offers to children and their teachers. Building on the intimate connection between thinking and philosophy, its central theme is that when the classroom is transformed into a 'community of philosophical inquiry', children develop the ability to think in ways which are more reflective, more judicious and more reasonable.

The book is aimed primarily at teachers, educators and others involved in school level education. However, it will also appeal to parents, youth workers, religious leaders, and academics.

Reason and Imagination

Philosophy with Children, ACER Press

This stimulating video provides an excellent introduction to teaching the skills used in philosophical thought.
The 53-minute video, documents:

- interviews with leading teachers and principals advocating the advantages of communities of inquiry in the school,
- students from a variety of school environments working together on philosophical problems,
- modelling of classroom protocol, in ways that highlight the importance of careful and considered dialogue.

Places for Thinking...

Francesca Partridge & Franck Dubuc, Laurance Splitter and Tim Sprod, ACER Press

Designed for children in the first years of school, *Places for Thinking* consists of four visually and verbally challenging books for children, *In A Field, On A Path, On A Plain* and *In a Tree* and a *Resource Manual for Teachers*. The stories provide a 'way in' to a collection of questions and ideas which all children should find intriguing, fascinating, puzzling and worthwhile. The manual helps teachers and parents to identify the philosophical ideas that emerge from the books, and to guide children in an investigation of these ideas. Working as 'a community of inquiry', children explore the ideas that stimulate them and develop tools for shaping the direction of the discussion.

Through thinking together, children learn to think individually. Teachers and parents will be able to encourage children to explore ideas and concepts through the support of the *Resource Manual*.

Places for Thinking provides a unique, exciting and thought-provoking way to address the speaking and listening strands of the English curriculum and to solve the elusive task of integrating thinking into the curriculum.

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Reason and Imagination: Philosophy with Children (Video)	A700RAI	$64.90		
Places for Thinking: On a Plain	A101PFT	$9.90		
Places for Thinking: In a Field	A102PFT	$9.90		
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Places for Thinking: On a Path	A104PFT	$9.90		
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