The Forgiveness Project Education Resources

Philosophy for Children

Elizabeth Turner’s story

“Forgiveness is accepting that we are all human beings and that we are not separate even from those who have hurt us.”
Elizabeth Turner’s story

Preparation

Getting set: Comparing and contrasting

*Initial exploration of the key words: resilience and positivity*

This activity usually works best in small groups and is used to promote discussions and focus thinking on particular concepts. This activity could serve as a stimulus that leads to the group creating a philosophical question.

Write up the words Resilience and Positivity on the board or on two sheets of paper on the floor.

Resilience  Positivity

Ask students to discuss the features of each concept, compare them and identify any contrasting features.

- Do they feel one is more important than the other?
- Do they link together?

Presentation of stimulus

Prepare students for watching the film by reminding them that the film is of someone telling their own real life story.

The film may trigger emotions and feelings that they may want to discuss further after the enquiry.

Remind them of the named staff members within and outside of school that are available for support, if they would like to talk further.

Short film stimulus (7 mins): [https://vimeo.com/250078421](https://vimeo.com/250078421)
Elizabeth Turner’s story

Concept mind map

- Break the cycle
- Compassion
- Loss
- Motherhood
- Wife
- Humanity
- Identity
- Loneliness
- Grief
- Forgiveness
- Ethos
- Resilience
- Drive/Motivation
- Way of thinking
- Healing
- Soul
- Trauma
- Intuition
- Independence
- Positivity
- Strength
- Soul

Example questions

- To what extent can forgiveness be a tool for healing?
- To what extent can forgiveness break the cycle of harm?
- Is it ever possible to forgive on behalf of others?
- Are you able to forgive someone who is no longer alive?
- Is the possibility of forgiveness dependent on individual strength of character?
- To what extent can personal stories ever shed light on societies larger injustices?
- To what extent can life grow out of loss?
- Are empathy and forgiveness interdependent?

Photo of Elizabeth Turner by Brian Moody

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