

Mindreading

Philosophy Smash with Henry!

Activity Sheet.

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This activity should be used with the 'How do you know what I'm doing?' video and lesson plan, available at the website above.

In philosophy, 'mindreading' just means our ability to understand the thoughts, ideas, and emotions of others. We do this all the time: when we see someone crying, we know that they are sad. We can understand that other people have different beliefs from us. For example, I might not believe in God, but I know that other people do.

Think about how we do this. How can we understand what other people are thinking?

Read over the list of ideas in the list below, and think about them. Then, decide how you think we're capable of mindreading

How do we read minds?

Behaviour:

Watching someone's behaviour seems really important for understanding their minds. To know that someone is happy, or sad, you often look to see if they're smiling, or crying. Is behaviour the only thing you use to work out what someone is thinking or feeling?

Your own experience:

Do you think that, to work out what someone else is thinking, you might not just look at what *they* are doing, but also think about what *you* would be thinking or feeling if you were in their shoes?

Lying:

People can sometimes lie about what they're thinking or feeling. Are there any signs that you can use to tell when someone is lying?



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