

# HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

Let's talk about...

# Wisdom

*compiled by Nick Chandley <http://www.philosophyforschools.co.uk/>*

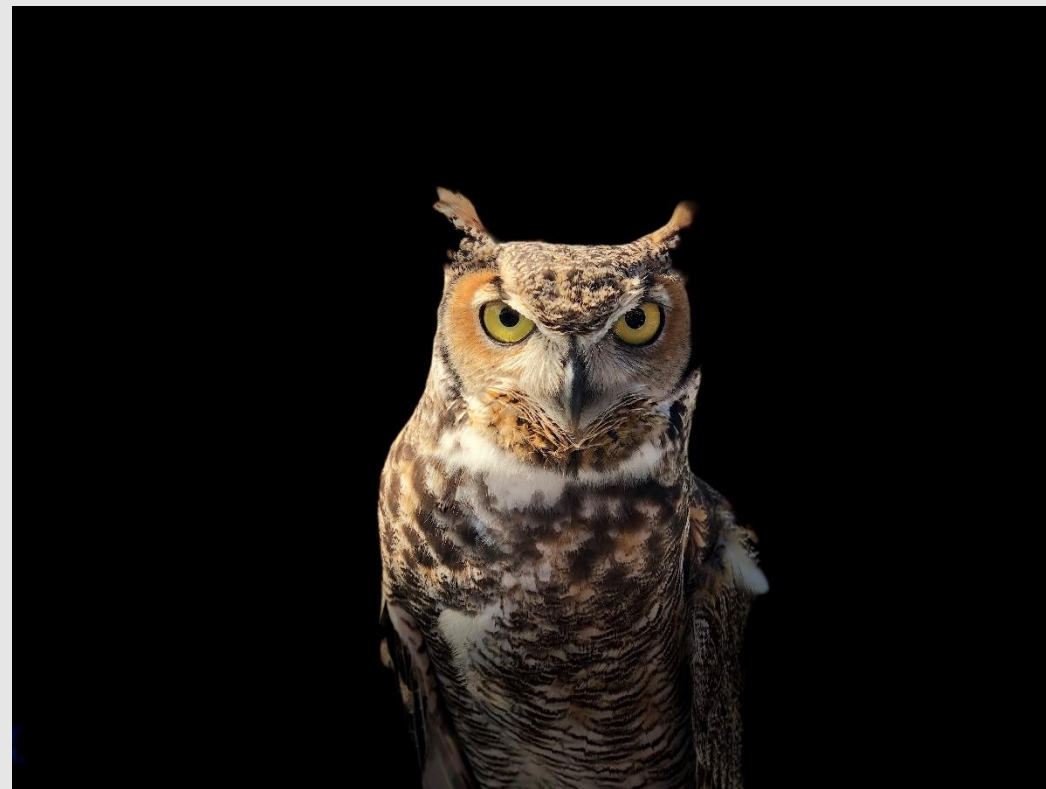


Photo by [James Lee](#) on [Unsplash](#)

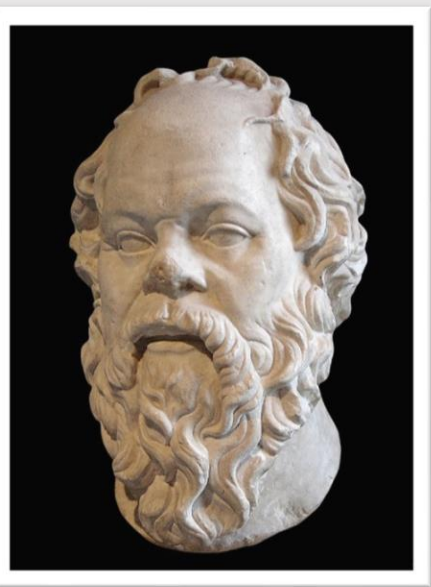
**Note to parents/carers and teachers**

This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children.



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# Quotes about wisdom



**Socrates**  
Philosopher (c470-399BC)

**Wisdom  
begins in  
wonder.**

**Angry people  
are not always  
wise.**



**Jane Austen**  
(Pride and Prejudice)  
Novelist (1775-1817)



**Jimi Hendrix**  
Singer/songwriter/musician (1942-1970)

**Knowledge  
speaks, but  
wisdom listens.**

Socrates quote from [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/socrates\\_101211](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/socrates_101211)  
Jane Austen quote from <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/wisdom?page=1>  
Jimi Hendrix quote from <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/wisdom?page=2>  
Socrates photo by Sting, at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socrates#/media/File:Socrate\\_du\\_Louvre.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socrates#/media/File:Socrate_du_Louvre.jpg) available via Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 Generic  
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Jane Austen photo National Portrait Gallery, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons, found at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CassandraAusten-JaneAusten\(c.1810\)\\_hires.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CassandraAusten-JaneAusten(c.1810)_hires.jpg)

# World Philosophy Day – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- This year's World Philosophy Day, organised by UNESCO (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/philosophy-day>), asks everyone to consider how philosophy can help us face the big challenges in life, in particular the COVID-19 pandemic
- Philosophy literally means 'love of wisdom': 'philo' = love of; 'sophy' (or 'sofos') = wisdom
- In this edition of HomeTalk, we explore various aspects of wisdom, but there are many interpretations
- Do a little research yourself to see what different people say about wisdom
- Talk with your child, or children, and anyone else you care to, about how being wise could help with some of today's big issues, from COVID to COP26.

# Thinking about wisdom

## Caring thinking

Would a wise person care what others think, do or say?

## Collaborative thinking

There is a saying, 'the wisdom of crowds'. Is a group of people more likely to be wiser than a single person?



## Creative thinking

The dictionary says wisdom is knowledge, experience and good judgment. Is there a connection between them?

## Critical thinking

If someone introduced you to a wise person, what assumptions would you make of them?

Do you think you  
will become wiser  
as you grow  
older?



Think **AHEAD**

What stories have you read  
that had wise characters?



Think **BACK**



**CONNECT**

Are common sense  
and intelligence the  
same thing?



**DIVIDE**

What is the  
difference between  
knowledge and  
understanding?



**LISTEN/LOOK**

Can you spot anyone  
*doing* anything wise  
this week?



**ZOOM (in/out)**

Would you say  
that wisdom  
only belongs to  
humans?

Is there an age  
where wisdom  
starts to develop?

# Discussion suggestions (age 3 - 5)

## Stimulus



[https://youtu.be/Tp\\_gYhVUxqk](https://youtu.be/Tp_gYhVUxqk) - Little Miss Wise, by Roger Hargreaves

Little Miss Wise always seems to know the right thing to do. But then she wonders if she should be a little different!

## Talking Points

- Go back through the story. How many wise things does Little Miss Wise do?
- Would you have done anything different to Little Miss Wise?
- What kind of sensible things do you, and other people in your house, do?
- Can you be sensible and silly at the same time?

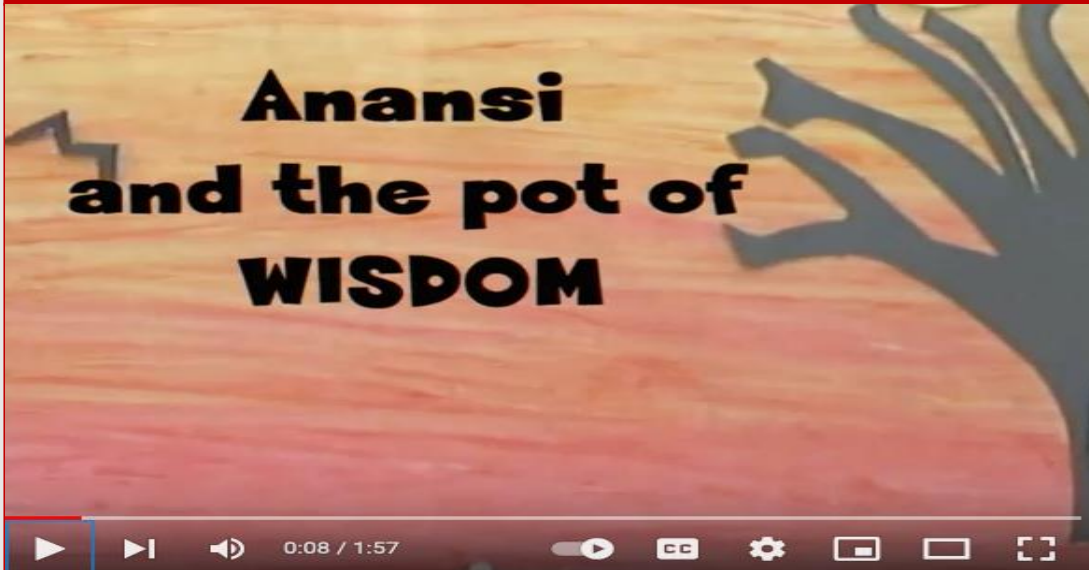
## Activities

- Make your own aeroplane, out of anything you like – a chair, a mat or even just the floor!
- Invite people in your house – or even your cuddly toys! – to come and fly with you. What sensible things would you tell them to do?



# Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

## Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/74sBikbqcmk> - Langley Academy after-school club

### **Anansi and the pot of wisdom**

A West African folk tale that tells how the spider Anansi tried to gather all the world's wisdom in a pot.

## Talking Points

- What kind of things did Anansi put into his pot of wisdom?
- Should he have added anything else? If so, what?
- Do you agree that it's important to share wisdom?
- Have you ever received any 'wise words'?

## Activities

- Make your own pot of wisdom. Decorate it with wise thoughts.
- Ask people at school or at home if they'd like to put something wise in your pot. Let them decide what you mean. Look in the pot when you have enough, then add something yourself.

# Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

## Stimulus

**Wisdom:**

The ability to use your **knowledge** and **experience** to make **good decisions** and **judgments**

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wisdom>

**The definition of wisdom, from the Cambridge Dictionary**

This definition of wisdom identifies knowledge and experience as key components.

## Talking Points

- Why might knowledge be an important factor of wisdom?
- Could you have very little experience or knowledge yet still be wise?
- What makes a decision a good decision? Have you made one recently? What made it 'good'?

## Activities

- Search the internet for the characteristics of a wise person (try *What makes someone wise?*)
- Make a list of about 10 – or more if you want
- How do they **CONNECT** with, and **DIVIDE** from, the dictionary definition?
- Can you come up with your own suggested definition?



➤ More about HomeTalk, including previous editions

➤ Parent Talk Moves – tips for great conversations with your children

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#P4C and #thinkingmoves



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# Training opportunities for teachers, support staff and parents

## **P4C Plus Foundation course** (12hrs)

*Teaching that puts more thinking into learning*

- Introduces you to **P4C Plus** and builds your skills over the first year of practice
- Equips you with a range of skills to use in P4C inquiries and throughout the curriculum
- Includes premium resources and teacher guide

## **Thinking Moves A – Z course** (6hrs)

*Making metacognition simple across the curriculum*

- Shows you how **Thinking Moves** can enhance thinking in any subject, as well as in P4C inquiries
- Gives you practical guidance on how to embed Thinking Moves into learning
- Includes premium resources and handbook

Both courses available online or face-to-face, for individuals or whole-school teams

See <https://dialogueworks.co.uk/training/> for upcoming courses

Contact [enquiries@dialogueworks.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dialogueworks.co.uk) for bookings or more information