

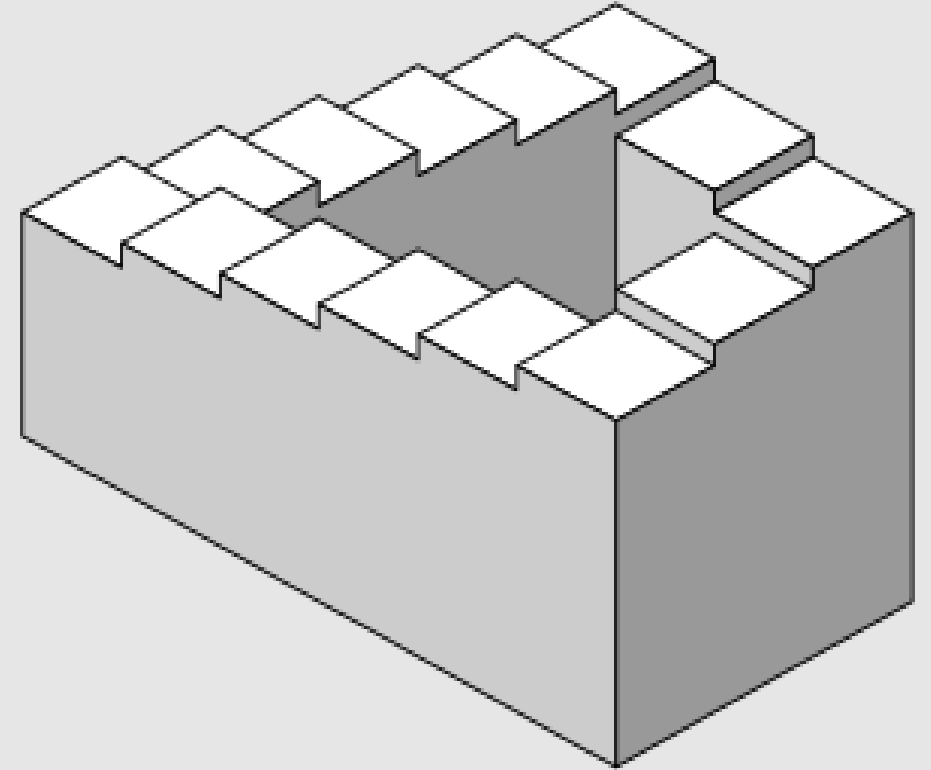
HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

Let's talk about...

Endings and Beginnings

compiled by Roger Sutcliffe (www.dialogueworks.co.uk)



Picture: Sakurambo, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

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.



To get HomeTalk emailed every week message <https://bit.ly/hometalk-sign-up>

Quotes about endings and beginnings

Life is not so much about beginnings and endings as it is about going on and on and on. It is about muddling through the middle.



Anna Quindlen
journalist, New York Times

The beginnings and endings of all human undertakings are untidy.



John Galsworthy
novelist

In my beginning is my end ... in my end is my beginning.



T.S. Eliot
poet

Anna Quindlen quote from https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/anna_quindlen_401402
John Galsworthy quote from https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/john_galsworthy_121017
T.S. Eliot quote from https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/t_s_eliot_161088

Anna Quindlen image: Angela Radulescu from New York, United States, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons
John Galsworthy image: Unknown author, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

T.S. Eliot image: Thomas Stearns Eliot with his sister and his cousin by Lady Ottoline Morrell.jpg: Lady Ottoline Morrell (1873–1938) derivative work: Octave.H, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Thinking about endings and beginnings

Caring thinking

Why do people celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the next? Should they celebrate the beginning and end of a day?

Collaborative thinking

Which is more difficult – to join a team as a new member, or to leave it as an old one?



Creative thinking

Think of different sorts of 'endings' and then think of how they might also be (described as) 'beginnings'.

Critical thinking

Do you think anyone could live 'happily ever after'? Do you think the end of life can be happy?

What is the saddest ending to a story that you know? And what was the happiest ending you saw in real life?

How is the first word of this question connected to the last word?

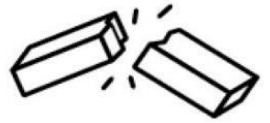
What do you hope will end soon? And what do you hope will begin soon?



Think **AHEAD**

Think **BACK**

CONNECT



DIVIDE

LISTEN/LOOK

ZOOM (in/out)

Is it possible to say when childhood ends and adulthood begins?

How many things can you hear or see starting or ending right now?

Books are often divided into 'chapters'. Is life in chapters?

Look closely at the last page of a storybook you have read. Is it a good way to end the story?

Discussion suggestions (age 3 - 5)

Stimulus



[https://youtu.be/ xr9TtWgcho](https://youtu.be/xr9TtWgcho)

Betty Lou: Beginning, Middle and End

Betty Lou realises that stories need middles as well as beginnings and ends – but not all middles work well.

Talking Points

- If a story begins *Once upon a time...*, what do you begin to think?
- If a story ends *They lived happily ever after*, what do you end up thinking?
- If a story had a good beginning but a silly middle, would you want to hear the end?

Activities

- Ask to hear the beginning and end of a story that you do not know, and then try to guess what happens in the middle.
- Start and end an adventure by sitting in a chair. In between, go outside and do something (anything!) that could be called an adventure. Tell someone the story of your adventure.

Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

Stimulus



https://youtu.be/5k_r-GH8Qsw

Music teacher makes violins from recycled material for kids

Who would think that plastic bottles could end up as parts of musical instruments?

Talking Points

- Obviously wooden instruments started (mainly) as trees. Did every tree start as something else? Does everything start as something else?
- How might the recycled violins end? Does anything ever really end?
- 'Music teacher becomes carpenter'. Do we all start as one 'thing' and end as another?

Activities

- Think of, and perhaps try out, three different uses for empty plastic bottles.
- Find other things in your house, or elsewhere, that are 'finished with', and see if you can find another use for them.
- Find out more about the teacher, and Peru.

Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/ZdkhKkfNPZE>

The End of the World

A song by Billie Eilish, focusing on a possible last five minutes of life.

Talking Points

- If the end of the world was near, where would you choose to be?
- If you are worried that the world as you know it might come to a bad ending, what could you do to reduce the chances of it happening?
- Can you begin to make life happier for yourself and others? How?

Activities

- Learn the words of Billie Eilish's song, and sing it to yourself.
- Imagine that you have only five minutes left to write a 'last note' to a person you love. Then write it. Then give it to that person, explaining why you wrote it.

[➤ More about HomeTalk, including previous editions](#)

[➤ Parent Talk Moves – tips for great conversations with your children](#)

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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 for bookings or more information