

# HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

## Issue 32 – Conflict

compiled by Bob House [www.dialogueworks.co.uk](http://www.dialogueworks.co.uk)



Photo by [jean wimmerlin](#) 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.



To get HomeTalk emailed every week  
message [bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk](mailto:bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk)

# This week's focus is conflict

**We must teach our children to resolve their conflicts with words, not weapons.**

Bill Clinton – former U.S. president



**Sit down and read. Educate yourself for the coming conflicts.**

Mary Harris Jones  
– social activist



**It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.**

Audre Lorde  
– writer



# Thinking about conflict

## Caring thinking

How can we make up with each other after we've had a quarrel?

## Collaborative thinking

How can people work together to resolve different interests or points of view?



## Creative thinking

How many examples of conflict can you come up with from the news or from everyday life?

## Critical thinking

Is the ability to deal with conflict a necessary life skill?

What were the reasons for the quarrel that we just had?

Am I heading into a conflict?

Do humans and other animals fight for similar reasons?



Think **AHEAD**

Think **BACK**

**CONNECT**



**DIVIDE**

**LISTEN/LOOK**

**ZOOM (in/out)**

Do humans and other animals fight for different reasons?

Have I listened properly to what the other person is saying?

Step back and ask: *Why are we fighting?*  
What actions can escalate a conflict?

# Discussion suggestions (age 3 - 5)

## Stimulus



[https://youtu.be/1E95\\_38I2h4](https://youtu.be/1E95_38I2h4)

**Boxing hares:** you sometimes see hares doing this in spring. It's why people talk about Mad March Hares. The boxing usually happens when a male is being too persistent with a female in the mating season.

## Talking Points

- Do you think the hares are good at boxing? Does it look as if they are hurting each other?
- Do you ever fight with your brother or sister, or with a friend? What sort of things might you fight about?
- What other ways are there of settling differences, apart from having a fight?

## Activity

- Think of a situation where young animals fight with each other in a playful way. You could search on the web for **baby animals play fighting**.
- Do a drawing of the situation and explain to your family what is happening in your picture.

# Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

## Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/f-6ospGuvSI>

### **Brothers at the wishing well by Mike**

**Wirkkala:** Two brothers find a wishing well while their mum is on the phone. Their wishes go in an unexpected direction.

## Talking Points

- What happens at the wishing well?
- Why do things go wrong for the brothers?
- What would you wish for, if you found a wishing well?
- Have you ever been jealous of a sibling or a friend? If yes, what were you jealous of?

## Activity

- Try doing a **'you go first'** day. Let other people have first choice of food, go through doors first, have the first turn at games and so on.
- At the end of the day, think how you feel, and ask your family how they feel, about the way you behaved.

# Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

## Stimulus



**Michel Euler/AP Photo:** Riot officers fired tear gas as protesters threw projectiles and set fires at an unauthorised demonstration against police violence and racial injustice in Paris.

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/06/09/in-pictures-anti-racism-protests-spread-throughout-the-world>

## Talking Points

- Would you say that the people in the photo are in conflict? If yes, with whom and why?
- Do you think the sort of conflict shown in the picture is justifiable?
- Is conflict sometimes the only way to make change happen?

## Activity

There's been a lot in the news about political conflict in the USA. Have a look at the picture on the next page. What's going on – and why?



## Activity

This link will help you find out more about the conflict shown in the picture:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jan/07/how-a-mob-of-trump-supporters-stormed-the-capitol-visual-guide>

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

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

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