

What Makes You Smile?

Teacher Notes

As children across the country return to school and begin to adjust to the 'new normal', we understand that you and your colleagues will want to do all you can to support the children in your care. Undoubtedly, children will have had varied and unique experiences of lockdown and all will need support to reintegrate and to reflect, deal with the present challenges of daily life and look ahead to what the future holds. Promoting mental health and well-being will be at the forefront of everything you do, and we hope that our project can help a little towards this by providing daily opportunities for all in school to discuss, reflect and consider the things which make them smile.

Offering the perfect hook into different aspects of learning, each picture will offer a whole host of opportunities for classroom use: to help build emotional literacy; as stimuli for developing inferential skills; to inspire different genres of writing; to develop critical thinking skills and as an introduction to new illustrators, books and stories. You can choose whether to use the pictures simply as a positive and heart-warming start to each day by providing opportunities for discussion and reflection, or to incorporate them into lesson planning, using the teaching ideas provided as a starting point.

Suggestions for Classroom Use

1. Display the picture of the day on the interactive whiteboard as the children come into class and use it as a registration activity to set up a positive mood for the day.
2. For every picture, ask the children to discuss or record their likes, dislikes, puzzles and connections, just as they would when engaging in book talk (see separate resource sheet) about a new text.
2. Try playing some music as you show the picture to give children the opportunity individually reflect or respond to questions. Play some upbeat and inspirational music while children are producing their own pieces of artwork for entry into our competition to fully immerse them in the theme of happiness.
3. If your school uses Philosophy for Children (P4C), use the pictures as a starting point for your community of enquiry. Click on the links below to find out more about P4C and how it can be used in schools to encourage critical thinking, develop reasoning, build self-esteem and improve speaking and listening skills.
4. Make a wall display with a world map and display the pictures and the illustrators around the map, pinpointing where they come from. Challenge the children to find out about each illustrator's home country: capital cities, language spoken, cultural traditions, population and national flag.
5. Once the children have seen all of the pictures, ask the children to discuss their favourites, giving reasons for their choices and relating to them own experiences and emotions.

Teaching Ideas

Developing Thinking Skills

- Why do you think the illustrator has chosen to draw this particular picture?
- What do you like most about the picture?
- If you were the illustrator, is there anything you would have done differently?
- What questions would you ask the illustrator about the picture?
- Are there any hidden meanings within the picture?
- What can you infer about the illustrator from their picture?
- Describe what you think is happening in the picture?
- What can we not see which is beyond the frame of the picture?
- What do think about when you look at this picture? Does it relate to any of your own experiences? Does it remind you of anything?
- How do you feel when you view this picture? Explain why it makes you feel like this?
- Which books make you smile?

Literacy Activities

- Read and listen to stories illustrated and/or written by the illustrator.
- Investigate phrases and idioms which relate to being happy (e.g. always look on the bright side of life; count your blessings; on cloud nine; full of the joys of spring). Where did these sayings originate and why do we use them?
- What can be inferred about the different characters in the pictures? Write a character description.
- Write poems about what makes you smile. These could be acrostics, Kennings, Haiku or a narrative poem recounting a funny event.
- Write a letter to someone special to make them smile.
- Write a story starter for the children to complete.
- Describe the setting of the picture using the senses.
- If this was an illustration in a picture book, what would the accompanying text be? Draw/write the preceding/next page of the book.
- Write from the point of view of one of the characters in the picture. What are they thinking/feeling/seeing/hearing?

SPAG Ideas

Use the pictures as a focus for contextualised grammar work related to your SPAG focus. For example:

- What might the characters in the picture be saying to one another? Write the dialogue using appropriate punctuation and dialogue tags.
- How many synonyms can be found for the word 'smile'? Place them on a word ladder or scale of intensity to explore different shades of meaning.
- Brainstorm words associated with happiness and create a word art picture using one of the many free word art generators which can be found online.
- Generate expanded noun phrases around the picture.
- Use different prepositions to describe what the characters are doing.
- Write simple sentences about each picture and ask the children to up-level them by adding/improving different words/phrases/clauses. For example: The girl was smiling.
 Expand the noun: The sweet, little girl was smiling.
 Replace the noun/verb: Sweet, little Mabel was grinning.
 Add a relative clause: Sweet little Mabel, who had just seen her best friend, was grinning.
 Add an adverbial: Sweet little Mabel, who had just seen her best friend, was grinning from ear-to-ear.

PSHE

- What made you smile today/yesterday?

- What is always guaranteed to make you smile?
- Can we be happy without smiling? Can we smile without being happy?
- Discuss external and internal triggers for different emotions. What makes us happy/sad/angry/excited/scared etc?
- Play emotions charades. Use a set of cards with emotion words and take it in turns to choose one and act it out for others to guess.
- Make someone smile by performing a random act of kindness. For example: give a friend a compliment, empty the dishwasher without being asked, let someone ahead of you in a queue in the shop.
- Is it true that smiling is infectious? Test this out by smiling at everyone throughout the day. Is the smile always returned?

Creative Ideas

- Discuss the style, medium and form used by each artist. Relate and compare to other pieces of art and book illustrations.
- Study and imitate the style of famous portrait artists such as Andy Warhol and Pablo Picasso. Portraits could be head shots of the children smiling or a full action shot of them doing something which makes them happy.
- Make clay sculptures showing people doing joyful activities – e.g. dancing, singing, playing football. A quick and easy alternative to using clay is to make figures out of kitchen foil. See the link below for an example of how to make one.
- Create a piece of artwork in the same style of one of the pictures.
- Design and print a t-shirt with a 'happy' slogan on it.
- Create a class picture book where everyone produces text and an illustration of what makes them smile.

Useful Links

Art Projects

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids>

<https://www.npg.org.uk/learning>

[How to make a foil figure](#)

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<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>

P4C

<https://p4c.com/about-p4c/>

<https://www.sapere.org.uk/>