

HomeTalk

Thoughtful Conversations for Families
and Schools

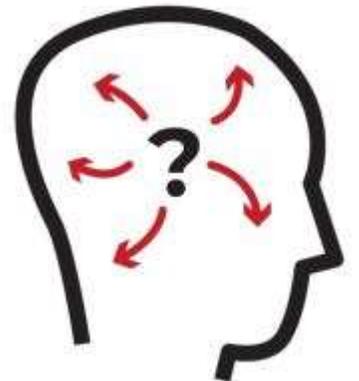
Issue 21 - Courage



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

Thinking
Moves



This week's focus is courage

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently."

Maya Angelou - poet



"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage."

Anais Nin - writer



"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

Winston Churchill



Caring thinking

- Is it braver to speak up for yourself or for someone else?

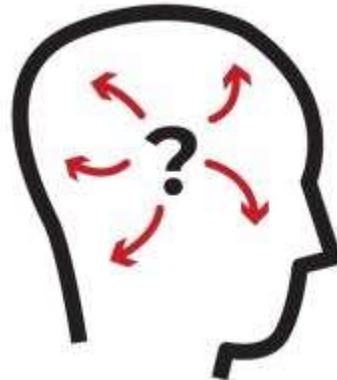


Collaborative thinking

- Can people talk each other into being courageous?

Creative thinking

- How could you help someone who was afraid to put forward ideas of their own?



Thinking Moves

Critical thinking

- Could you ever describe someone as being *too* courageous?

Thinking Moves



Think AHEAD

What is the next thing you might need courage for?



Think BACK

.. to a time when you wished you had had more courage



CONNECT

Think of 3 times when you showed courage. How were they similar?



DIVIDE

How were your examples of courage different?



LISTEN/LOOK

Look out for 3 examples today of others showing courage



ZOOM (in/out)

How courageous do you feel right now?

Could you live without courage?

HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For age 3 – 5 years



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpt96kfG9SE>

Dragons and Giants by Arnold Lobel – Frog and Toad are reading about brave St. George and the Dragon. They wonder if they are brave themselves, and set off on an adventure to find out.

<https://www.philosophyforchildren.org/questionslibrary/frog-and-toad-together-dragons-and-giants/>



Talking Points

- Were Frog and Toad brave at all?
- What would have frightened you most if you had climbed the mountain with them?
- Have you been brave enough to do something that you found scary?
- What was the bravest thing you did yesterday?

Activity

- Draw a picture of a dragon. (Is it really scary?)
- Play 'Blind Man's Buff' with your family. Was it scary to be blindfolded? Could you spend a whole hour blindfolded? <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/blind-mans-bluff>

HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For ages 6 - 9



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkg-ffNGv_E

What is courage? - by Stephanie Bierman

A short animation with lots of questions and lots of answers. (Note to grown-ups: some of the answers might be questionable, but it'll be worth seeing which questions your child finds answerable!)

Talking Points

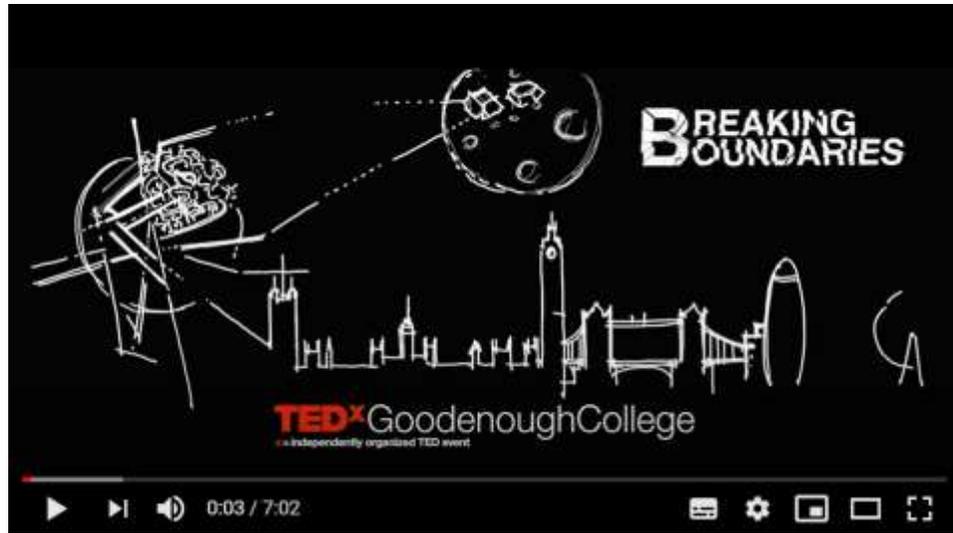
- When do doctors have to show courage? When do patients have to show courage?
- Do you *have* to be brave to be honest? – or kind?
- Is everybody a little heroic every day?
- Can you remember what the 'courageous voice' said in the video? How *do* you find that voice in yourself?

Activity

- List four other jobs that people do. Do they all require courage? Which one requires most?
- Sing a song to your family. If it did not take much courage, find something to do for them that would.

HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For ages 10 - 12



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LZTeQ5ngCE>

The power of bravery – a 7 minute TEDx talk by a 10-year-old immigrant to the UK, expressing the challenge of learning a new language or instrument.

Talking Points

- How brave do you think it was for Joseph to do this talk? Would you have been nervous about doing it?
- Which do you think takes more courage – speaking in public, or making music in public?
- Is doing something risky a different sort of courage than doing something you haven't done before?
- Is *encouraging* someone literally giving them *courage*?

Activity

- List 3 little challenges that you have taken on recently, and 3 big ones that you might take on in future. Then have the courage to share the list with your family.
- Mention the video to one of your teachers and ask them if they might show it to your class.

HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For ages 13+



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wOxuFrMP1E>

Father's responsibility – an excerpt from the famous 1960 film, in which one of the Magnificent Seven (played by Charles Bronson) compares 'fighting' courage with the everyday courage of facing hardship for those you love.

Talking Points

- Do you think most Hollywood blockbuster films glorify 'macho' courage rather than 'moral' courage? (Try to use examples.)
- Does taking responsibility always take courage?
- Can you learn courage from your family? If so, what other virtues can you learn from them?

Activity

- Find some films or excerpts on Youtube that present the courage of facing hardship for others.
- Research the (Japanese) film 'Seven Samurai' on which 'The Magnificent Seven' was based. It was voted 'greatest foreign-language film' in a 2018 BBC poll.

HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For ages 13+



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbDraZi7F_4

Courage is contagious – a 5 minute TED talk by artist Damon Davis, reflecting in 2017 on how he drew courage from the BLM protesters in Ferguson (2014) and proceeded to dedicate his art to the BLM cause.

Talking Points

- Do you think fear is more ‘contagious’ than courage?
- Do you think lots of people live with fear every day? If so, how do you think they find the courage to do so?
- Do you think people who do not support the BLM cause lack courage - or just lack awareness?
- Could they be right to say,? *‘There are many injustices in life. I can’t take responsibility for all of them’*

Activity

- Research the BLM movement and try to express your response to it in just a paragraph or two. In particular, research the film Damon made, *‘Whose Streets?’* and consider some of the critical comments on this page: <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2017/aug/11/ferguson-documentary-whose-streets-michael-brown-race-protests>

More ideas.....

<https://dialogueworks.co.uk/HomeTalk/>



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