



Enquiry Plan

Philosophical Enquiry for KS2 and KS3

The Spaceship of Theseus

*Re-wring, re-painting, re-programming;
Theseus has made so many repairs to his Spaceship, he's lost count.
But has he lost his Spaceship in the process?*

Philosophical Potential	Metaphysics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identity, Change, Time
Session Objective(s)	Identify your own community and enquiry-focused objectives e.g. Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children should share an idea with a partner Some children should share their ideas with the whole group Enquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children should give reasons when prompted Some children should give reasons spontaneously
Facilitation Questions	Part one <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Spaceship that returns to earth Theseus' Spaceship? Is the Spaceship that returns the same Spaceships the one that took off? Is it the same Spaceship if only one part has been changed? What if 10% 50% or 99% of the parts have been changed? If the Spaceship is different, at what point did it become different? Does it matter what part is changed as to whether the Spaceship is a different one –e.g. if the engine was changed? Or a few nuts and bolts? Does it matter if the change is sudden or gradual? Does it matter what people call the Spaceship? What does it mean to say something is the same? Can anything ever stay the same? Part two <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which Spaceship (if any) is Theseus' Spaceship? Does that mean that the other Spaceship isn't Theseus' Spaceship? Can one thing ever become two? If yes, is this true of all things or some things? Does it matter which one Theseus calls 'his Spaceship'? Does it matter which one people think is Theseus' Spaceship?



Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jigsaw images of Theseus Spaceship (take an image of a Spaceship and cut it into pieces) • Circle of chairs, pencils, pens, enquiry reflection sheets
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stimulus can be presented as two parts of the same session (as in this plan) or as two separate sessions.

1. PREPARATION		10 min
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Ethos: If necessary, briefly establish or reiterate your class expectations. E.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We decide what we really think, the teachers can't tell us the answers ○ We're always asking questions ○ We share what we really think ○ We care what other people think too ○ We give reasons for our opinions ○ We're not scared to disagree ○ We often change our mind ○ We speak one at a time ○ We encourage speakers by listening and looking at them 	
Warm up	<p>Meditation: What's changed?</p> <p>Ask the children to close their eyes and picture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Something that has changed over the last five years • Something that has changes over the last year • Something that has changed over the last month • Something that has changed over the last week • Something that has changes today • Something that has changed since this activity began 	
2. STIMULUS		5 min
Presentation of Stimulus	<p>Theseus's Spaceship: Part One</p> <p>The crowds at NASA wave as Theseus's Spaceship blasts off. They know he will be gone for a very long time. In fact, Theseus is away for many years. During this time his space ship springs leaks and has to be mended. The metal outer body of the ship is damaged by the heat of take off and has to be mended during a space walk. The internal fixtures and fittings wear out and are replaced. The oxygen tanks are emptied and new ones are retrieved from the international space station. So the repairs and replacements go on until after seven years when every part of the space ship Theseus set out in has been replaced. Every single part has been replaced with something new!</p> <p>After seven years Theseus makes a daring re entry to earth. The crowds who come to meet him at the landing site "Here is Theseus' Spaceship at last!"</p>	
Thinking Time	A minute in silence.	

3. QUESTIONS		1 min
Prepared Question	Ask: Are they right? Is it the same Spaceship?	
4. DIALOGUE		25 min
First Thoughts	Paired discussion.	
Collecting Ideas	Facilitated discussion gathering a range of responses.	
Getting Focused	Facilitated discussion, identifying and exploring key emergent idea(s) in depth. Possible sub questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Spaceship that returns to earth Theseus' Spaceship? • Is the Spaceship that returns the same Spaceships the one that took off? • Is it the same Spaceship if only one part has been changed? • What if 10% 50% or 99% of the parts have been changed? • If the Spaceship is different, at what point did it become different? • Does it matter what part is changed as to whether the Spaceship is a different one –e.g. if the engine was changes or a few nuts and bolts? • Does it matter if the change is sudden or gradual? • Does it matter what people call the Spaceship? • What does it mean to say something is the same? • Can anything ever stay the same? 	

OPTIONAL TWIST		
Stimulus – Part Two	Theseus's Spaceship Problem: Part Two While Theseus is in space all the original parts of his Spaceship are replaced are kept and stored in large containers. When Theseus returns to the earth after seven years, he hears what people are saying about his Spaceship and he wonders if the repaired Spaceship is one and the same space ship he set out in. He persuades the expert engineers to build a Spaceship out of all the old pieces, (metal casing, wiring, screws etc.) When the crowds people see two Spaceships side by side in the space station they are astonished! "Which is Theseus" Spaceship?" they ask.	
Prepared Question	Ask: Which is Theseus' Spaceship?	
Collecting Ideas	Facilitated discussion gathering a range of responses.	
Getting Focused	Facilitated discussion, identifying and exploring key emergent idea(s) in depth.	

	<p>Possible sub questions that may be useful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which Spaceship (if any) is Theseus' Spaceship? • Does that mean that the other Spaceship isn't Theseus' Spaceship? • Can one thing ever become two? • If yes, is this true of all things or some things? • Does it matter which one Theseus calls 'his Spaceship'? • Does it matter which one people think is Theseus' Spaceship? 	
Digging Deeper	Paired break-out discussion on particularly challenging aspects of emerging ideas(s).	
Final Push	Return to the original question(s). If you have used both the original story and the twist, draw the children's attention to the differences between their answers to each case.	
Last thoughts	<p>What next?</p> <p>Invite everyone in the group to suggest a question that we should ask next, in light of the discussion they have just had. Pass the pom-pom once round the circle, to facilitate this. Co-facilitators model first.</p> <p>Alternatively, if pressed for time, hear from a few volunteers.</p>	
5. REFLECTION		5 min
Reflection on the Enquiry	Ask for some volunteers to feedback on one interesting idea they had during the session	
Reflection on the Community	Ask for some different volunteers to feedback on one helpful thing they did during the session	