

The Smart Thinking Board

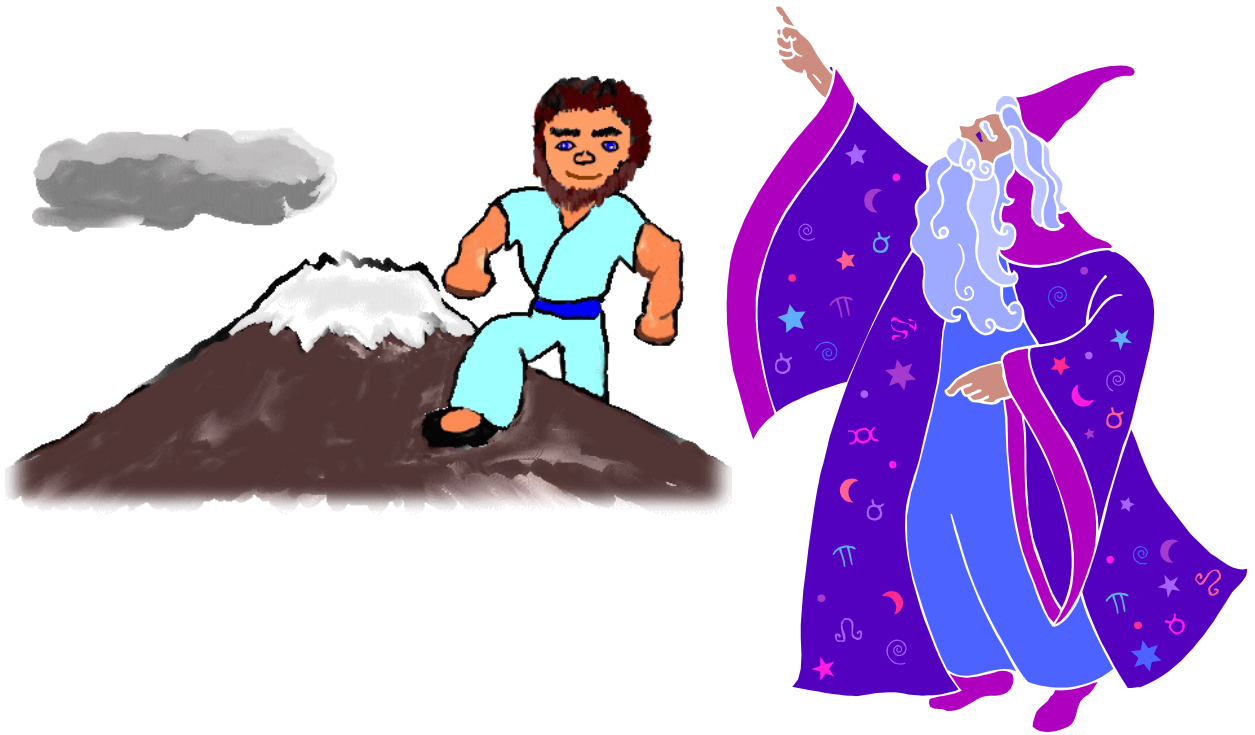
This is my prettification and adaptation of some ideas from Sara Stanley, author of “But Why?” an introduction to P4C which is especially helpful for those working with younger children. Some of her materials can also be seen on www.p4c.com

The aim is to celebrate the idea that people think differently about things, that it’s OK to disagree and interesting to see why other people think what they think.

The first six pages are questions for parents and children to talk about together at home, perhaps one a week. They record what the “junior thinker” and grown-up each think and why, and put their names at the bottom.

The next page is the “we disagreed” symbol. You can place under this the responses where child and adult thought differently. The remaining pages are enlarged images of the choices which could be used as headers on a “Smart Thinking Board”. If both child and adult chose the same, put their sheet under that image.

Having the thinking visible like that can start to get across the idea that it’s OK to disagree, and you may be able to get dialogue going from children remembering the reasons they gave, or reporting the reasons their parents gave.



Would you rather be a giant or a wizard?

Junior thinker thinks _____

because _____

Grown-up thinks _____

because _____

Smart thinking by _____



If you were bigger than your parents, who would be in charge?

Junior thinker thinks _____

because _____

Grown-up thinks _____

because _____

Smart thinking by _____



Would you rather be a bird or a plane?

Junior thinker thinks _____

because _____

Grown-up thinks _____

because _____

Smart thinking by _____



Would you rather live at the top of a skyscraper or in a country cottage?

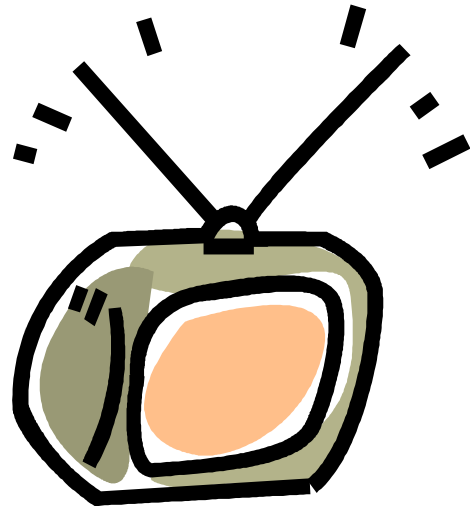
Junior thinker thinks _____

because _____

Grown-up thinks _____

because _____

Smart thinking by _____



Would you choose no sweets or no television?

Junior thinker thinks _____

because _____

Grown-up thinks _____

because _____

Smart thinking by _____



Would you choose to be rich or to be famous?

Junior thinker thinks _____

because _____

Grown-up thinks _____

because _____

Smart thinking by _____

