

Lesson Plan #1: Metaphysics

Anna, Eli, and Mia

Time: 45 minutes

Age: 5-6 years

Materials: Stلالuna book, Play-Doh

Learning Objectives:

1. Make children comfortable with philosophical thinking
2. Identify philosophical vs. empirical questions
3. Discuss metaphysics and essential vs. accidental properties

Introductions (7 mins)

- Go around circle and share name, pronouns, and what we want to be when we grow up
 - Everyone repeats it back (This is Eli. They want to be a ____)
- Discussion about continuity of identity over time
 - Will you be the same person when you grow up?
 - Share what we wanted to be when we were younger
 - “Am I the same person now as when I was younger?”
 - I wanted to be ____ when I was younger but now I want to be _____. Am I the same person?

Activity #1: Stلالuna book (10 mins)

- Discuss
 - Identity
 - Growing up
 - “If Stلالuna is right side up, is she still a bat?”
 - “If Stلالuna sleeps during the night, is she still a bat?”
 - “What makes Stلالuna a bat?”
 - “Is Stلالuna a bat or a bird?”
 - “What makes you you?”

What is Philosophy? (7 mins)

- Does anyone know what philosophy is?
 - What we just did was philosophy!!
- Philosophy is asking big questions
- What is a “big” question? What were some of the big questions we asked in the book?
 - “What is the name of the main character in the book?”
 - Not big because you know the answer
 - “What makes Stلالuna a bat?”

- Big question
- This is what we will be thinking about today

Activity #2: Play-Doh (10 mins)

- Take 3 mins to build whatever you want out of your clay
- Ask what each of their creations is - let children also interpret each others creation
- Have them change it in some way (pull a part off)
- Is it still the same thing?
 - Ex. if it is a cat → what makes this a cat? Is it still a cat if a piece is missing?
 - Encourage different opinions to share what they think - disagreement is valued!

End (7 min)

- Reflection about activities and conversations
 - Reinforce what philosophy is and some rules going forward
 - Listen, one person speaks at time, it's okay to disagree
 - Let them come up with some rules (based on how this session went - what they did well and what rules are needed to future)
 - Did this conversation feel confusing or difficult? Describe how you felt
 - Have you realized anything new? How did you like the book? What about the activity? Which made more sense?
 - Hopefully they'll have discovery - how to disagree well and listening to others