ACTIVITY: ‘AT LEAST IT’S NOT RAINING’ (Option 1)

TIME: 10+ minutes
SIZE: Individuals
SPACE: No Special Requirements
RESOURCES: Blank Cartoons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 (pp.64–69 or SenseAbility CD), pens

The aim is to have students consider situations in a light-hearted manner.

The result should be practical exercising of helpful and flexible thinking skills that are important to a strong Sense of Humour.

1. Give students a copy of each of the six blank cartoons (if time is limited, give students only three each).
2. Students are to supply two captions for each of their cartoons: one that they think is funny, and one that is not.
3. Allow around 90 seconds per cartoon.
4. Project each of the blank cartoons one by one and ask willing students to read aloud their two captions for that cartoon.
5. Rate the most amusing caption by class applause.

DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

• For students who developed captions that drew strong applause: How did you come up with the ideas? What thinking skills did you use?

• Why were the funny captions amusing? What qualities went toward making a funny caption?

• Why were the unfunny captions unamusing? Were any of these amusing to select people? If so, why?

• Flexible thinking is very important to building and maintaining a healthy Sense of Humour. Why might this be?

• How can flexible thinking and a Sense of Humour help you weather difficult events in day-to-day life? (Brainstorm some examples from students’ lives.) What did you think? How did helpful/flexible thinking make you feel in those situations? How might you have felt differently if you’d thought differently?