



ACTIVITY: 'FROM MOUNT OLYMPUS'

TIME: 20+ minutes
SIZE: Pairs
SPACE: Room for pairs to work
RESOURCES: Gifts & Curses Sheet and Story Sheet (p.58–59 or SenseAbility CD), glue, scissors, pens, paper

The aim is for students to work at a given task then employ helpful thinking skills when circumstances change rapidly.

The result should be an appreciation of the importance of flexible thinking in maintaining a Sense of Future.

1. Break the class into pairs.
2. One partner is going to play a benevolent Olympian God, the other a malicious one.
3. The 'good' God chooses three 'Gifts' from the Gifts & Curses Sheet; the 'bad' God chooses three 'Curses'. Do not let them see each other's choices.
4. Give each student a Story Sheet on which there are three scenarios about mortal humans who each have a goal they wish to achieve. The 'good' God will seek to help each of the humans by bestowing one of the three gifts, and the 'bad' God will seek to hinder each human with one of the three curses.
5. Have the pairs place the three gifts and three curses on the Story Sheet – allow only one minute for this. Partners are not allowed to speak during this time!
6. Once the gifts and curses are glued down, allow the pairs to re-read each story and speculate about how their humans fared in their tasks with their gifts and curses.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- Do you think the gifts or the curses won out in your scenarios or did they balance each other out? Or, do you think the humans' fates ultimately would depend most on the decisions they made?
- We can often feel like events in our lives are out of our control (or in the 'lap of the Gods'); but even in those situations, there are often still 'gifts' to be found and good choices to be made. Have you ever been in a situation where your choices always seemed to have upsides and downsides? What did you do? What thinking skills did you rely on?
- Brainstorm some common scenarios where there is more than one path forward, each with good and bad consequences.* What is the best way to approach them? How do you remain hopeful in those situations? Who should you seek help from?

** For example, you know a friend of yours is bullying another young person. You've asked your friend to stop, but they haven't. Do you tell a teacher and risk losing your friend? Or say nothing and feel awful that your friend is making another person miserable?*