



ACTIVITY: 'LIFE O' REILLY'

TIME: 15+ minutes
SIZE: Small groups
SPACE: For small circles
RESOURCES: Story Starter Cards and Cue Cards (pp.69–70 or SenseAbility CD), hat/bucket, clock with second hand

The aim is to have students exercise flexible thinking skills when envisaging a potential future for a fictional person.

The result should be class discussion about the need to set and pursue goals, but also to think realistically and remain hopeful when things don't go to plan.

1. Break the class into small, even numbered groups of four to eight, and have each group sit in a circle.
2. For each group have ready one Story Starter Card, and Cue Cards in a hat or bucket.
3. Have each student draw out a Cue Card but keep it unread, face-down on their lap.
4. Explain the activity: each group will receive a Story Starter Card that will commence a tale about a student named Reilly. One person in the group (you decide who) will pick up the tale and speak for 60 seconds, progressing the story with what they imagine might happen to Reilly. However, at the 30 second mark, the person sitting OPPOSITE the speaker must hold up the Cue Card for the speaker to read aloud (these Cue Cards include unexpected events, like Reilly breaking his/her wrist, or getting an unexpected phone call). The speaker must accommodate this change and speak for another 30 seconds.
5. The speaking role will then move to the person on the speaker's left. That person must speak for 60 seconds, with the person opposite holding up a Cue Card at 30 seconds.
6. The activity continues until every person in the group has progressed Reilly's story.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- Did you find the activity easy or difficult? Which parts? Why?
- What were you thinking and feeling when the Cue Card came up in the middle of your story section? How hard was it to incorporate that unexpected change?
- Reilly is a fictional person whose fate really doesn't matter to you, but have you ever been faced with an unforeseeable 'Cue Card' like the ones that faced Reilly? What did or would you do?
- Sometimes unexpected things happen to us, and these events seem to derail our plans and divert us from our goals. What are good strategies for coping with these circumstances? What thinking skills are most valuable? When should we seek help, and from whom?