



ACTIVITY: 'NICE NEW SPECIES'

TIME: 10–15 minutes

SIZE: Whole of class

SPACE: No special requirements

RESOURCES: Animals OHT 1 & 2 (pp.71–72), pens, paper

The aim is for students to think about how they regard themselves.

The result should be an appreciation that our values and qualities contribute strongly to our Sense of Self-worth.

1. Project the picture of the four animals heading the columns (panther, dog, dolphin, python).
2. Ask students to consider what qualities they might share with those animals, then have them rate all four, from which they are most like, to which they are least like.
3. Brainstorm as a class the qualities that typify each creature, listing the qualities under each animal on the OHT.
4. Students are to imagine they can engage the services of a genetic scientist who is able to fuse any two members of the four species together. Given this development, which hybrid creature would students now think they are like? (Panth-og? Pyth-phin?). Have them write down their answer and reasons.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- Allow brief discussion about the choices students made about their hybrid creatures, and why they chose them.
- Was it easy or hard to decide, initially, which animal you were most like? Why/why not?
- Why is it sometimes simpler to find qualities in something – or someone – else than it is to find qualities within ourselves? Is it habit? Do we feel pressured?
- What thinking tools can we use to rectify this and make it easier to bring our good qualities more easily to mind?
- How is real life similar to the situation of engaging a not-so-mad scientist? How does a change in events and circumstances allow (or force) us to reconsider the way we regard ourselves? What are some good strategies for maintaining a strong Sense of Self-worth in the face of change?