



Open-Sky  
School

Category  
PHILOSOPHY  
FOR KIDS



Activity

# The Beauty of Nature

MATERIALS  
NONE

DURATION  
40 MINUTES

## Activity Summary

Children's philosophy workshops aim to develop children's ability to think by and for themselves, as well as to introduce them to take a critical look at certain behaviours and social issues.

This workshop, which takes place outdoors, aims to help students think about the theme of beauty.

## Preparation

Choose a quiet space in nature where students can sit comfortably in a circle. If you wish, you can read *Outside In* by Deborah Underwood in preparation of or complementary to this activity.



# Steps

This workshop consists of a group discussion in which students sit in a circle and share their ideas without being forced to express themselves. Every idea is valid and can lead to new avenues of thought.

Be prepared to ask questions to stimulate discussion, if necessary.

If you notice that the same students often speak at the expense of others, you can limit the number of times each student speaks. For example, you can ask students to find 3 sticks, leaves, rocks or other objects on the ground, and put one object in the center of the circle each time they take a turn to speak, until they do not have any objects left. At that point, the student can continue to listen to what their peers have to say.

**A.** Look around you.  
Search for something beautiful.

**B.** Think about the beauty of nature.

**C.** Think about what makes something or someone beautiful.

## Questions

1. When it's your turn, tell me what you find beautiful. Tell us why.

(Go around the circle so that each student can express themselves.)

1. What is a beautiful landscape for you?

2. What do you find beautiful in nature?

1. How do you know that something or someone is beautiful?

2. Do we learn to see beauty?

3. Do we perceive beauty with more than one sense?

4. Do we see the beauty of an object or a person immediately?

5. Do you perceive beauty with your head or with your heart?

RETURN TO  
GROUP

You can continue discussions about perceptions of beauty in class.

Here are some additional questions to facilitate discussion:

1. When do you think something is beautiful?

2. Can something be both beautiful and ugly?

3. Can you be beautiful and feel ugly?

4. Can we change our mind about what we find beautiful?

5. Can we be influenced in our perception of beauty?

6. Who decides what is beautiful?

7. Are there different forms of beauty?

8. What is a beautiful person?

### REINVESTMENT:

Students can conduct research to learn about beauty "standards."

Are beauty standards the same according to different times, cultures, individuals?

What about the saying: *Beauty is in the eye of the beholder?*