

Literacy Development

Pre-Reading Group Discussion

Consider different ways in which we think and learn. Work in groups of three or four. In your group, discuss the questions below. Choose a group leader who asks the questions, a facilitator who makes sure everyone gets a chance to talk and a reporter who shares the result of your discussion with the other groups. Take about 20 minutes and don't worry if you don't have time to respond to all of the questions. Be honest and thoughtful in your answers.

1. Think about some of the things you learned before coming to school. Do you know how you learned them? Did a parent teach you? Did you see someone doing what you learned?
2. Can you think of some things that bothered you at first but you learned over time to ignore them?
3. Can you think of anything you react to as a result of a conditioned response (automatically without thinking)? This might be a positive or negative feeling or action.
4. Do you have any phobias? If so, can you think of what happened to create the phobia? Can you think of a way you might eventually lose the phobia?
5. Can you think of an example when a parent, teacher, or someone else used a reward or punishment to change your behavior? Was it effective? Were there any unintended consequences?
6. Can you think of something you learned from observation that totally upset your parents but your friends approved of? Which person or persons influenced you more?
7. Can you think of anything you do or believe in that relates to something you have read or seen on television or at the movies? This includes the clothes you like, the vocabulary you use, the car you want to drive, or work you want to do.