

What Do I Feel? Lesson 4: Assumptions

Discuss the following:

- ***Never judge a book by its cover.***
- ***We make assumptions by not listening, not thinking, not questioning.***

Ask pupils to form small groups to discuss their understanding of the word assumption and any experiences they may have of people making assumptions, either about themselves or others.

Ask the pupils to discuss any groups in society that they think people may make assumptions about. Pupils may bring up topics including sectarianism, disability, racism and other forms of discrimination – or local issues.

Ask pupils to consider:

- ***What gives rise to these assumptions?***
- ***Are we born with them?***

You may wish to discuss the first impressions which we often have about the way people are dressed or how they present themselves. Ask pupils what their first impression might be on seeing someone:

- **Wearing a tee shirt advertising a rock band**
- **Wearing tinted glasses**
- **Wearing football colours**
- **Wearing a kilt**
- **Crying in public**
- **Failing to make eye contact**
- **Lying on the pavement**

Assumption Scenarios**Pupils Name:****Scenario 1:**

Five children enter a newsagent. They begin to move around the shop quickly, passing up and down the aisles.

- What assumptions might the shopkeeper make about the children?
- What else might be happening?

Pupil Responses**Scenario 2:**

A young man with a hooded top is running down the street carrying a lady's handbag.

- What assumptions might a pedestrian make about the man with the hooded top? What else might be happening?

Pupil Responses**Scenario 3:**

A person, stopped by the police, does not reply to any of their questions.

- What assumptions might the police make? What else might be happening?

Pupil Responses