



Difficult questions

Questions inject a dynamic into a conversation. No question? – no conversation!

Finding a question that works, a question that makes the conversation 'run' is a discovery, a promise, a great finding. Jostein Gaarder, author of the philosophical novel 'The world of Sophie', says, 'For an answer you do not need to show respect. An answer is a part of the road that lies behind you. Only a question can bring you further'.

Questions that work are difficult at the same time. They may make us feel uncomfortable, because they demand a self inquiry and a justification of what we are, do, feel and think.

Approach

1. Choose one of the questions below and start the conversation.
2. Take enough time to explore different aspects.
3. Try to avoid a fixed answer; keep the conversation open; make space for new thinking and unexpected views.
4. If you would like a particular format for the conversation, have a look at practical guide 15, Little time – good conversation.
5. Reflect on the conversation. What were interesting moments, surprising openings or unexpected turns?

Questions

1. Do things change by looking at them?
2. Is there always a perspective?
3. What is the importance of a name?
4. Are there just inequalities?
5. Can you lie to yourself?
6. Can you be held responsible of things you are not aware of?
7. Can music communicate something?
8. How do you make a decision?
9. Can desires be disciplined?
10. What is 'a civilised human being'?
11. How do you recognize quality?





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12. Do we all need a moral master?
13. Can love be a sin?
14. Of what is independence the result?
15. When you change, do you become somebody else?
16. How important are habits?
17. Can something be true and false at the same time?
18. Can you understand somebody else better than he understands himself?
19. When does 'mind your own business' not count?
20. How do you get a new idea?
21. Are there things that do not exist?
22. What is the value of imperfection?





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