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# Hometalk

Thoughtful Conversations for Families

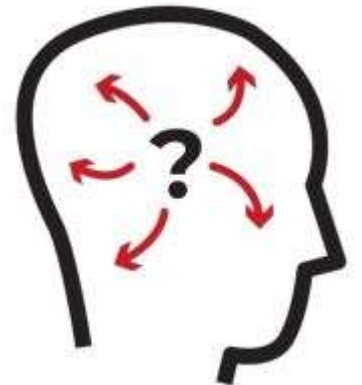
Week 17



**Note to parents/carers**

This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to your children

Thinking  
Moves



# This week's focus is inventions

***“Necessity is the  
mother of invention”***

Old saying



THE BEST  
WAY TO  
PREDICT THE  
FUTURE IS TO  
INVENT IT.  
-ALAN KAY

## Caring thinking

- For each invention that you LOOK at, try to ZOOM out and think about how important it has been for other people.

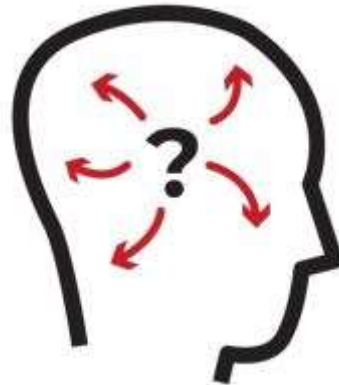


## Collaborative thinking

- Talk about *inventiveness* with your family, friends and teachers, and see if they agree whether this is more than just being famous for a great invention.

## Creative thinking

- Do you ever have a new idea? Do you have lots of them? Are all inventions new ideas? Are all new ideas inventions?



Thinking Moves

## Critical thinking

- Are some inventions no good? What makes an invention a good invention?
- Can you give an example of a bad idea that got better 'on second thoughts'?

# Thinking Moves



**Think AHEAD**

About the future...



**Think BACK**

About the past...



**CONNECT**

What connects one thing to another...



**DIVIDE**

What's different between things...



**LISTEN/LOOK**

What do we hear or see ...



**ZOOM (in/out)**

Go into detail...

See the big picture...

# Homework discussion suggestions

For age 3 – 5 years



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFfDQmgYd3E>

**The invention of paper – Sesame Street version**

Parent check



## Talking Points

- How different do you think life was before people could write on paper and read books?
- Why was paper so much better for writing on and reading from than stone?
- Could you guess how paper was / is actually made?
- Do you have to be very smart to invent something?

## Fun Activity

- LOOK at this video about paper:  
<https://youtu.be/kMoAe8pXSjl>
- Then draw a paper-making machine (on paper, of course!)

# Parents! Some advice about a modern invention – the screen



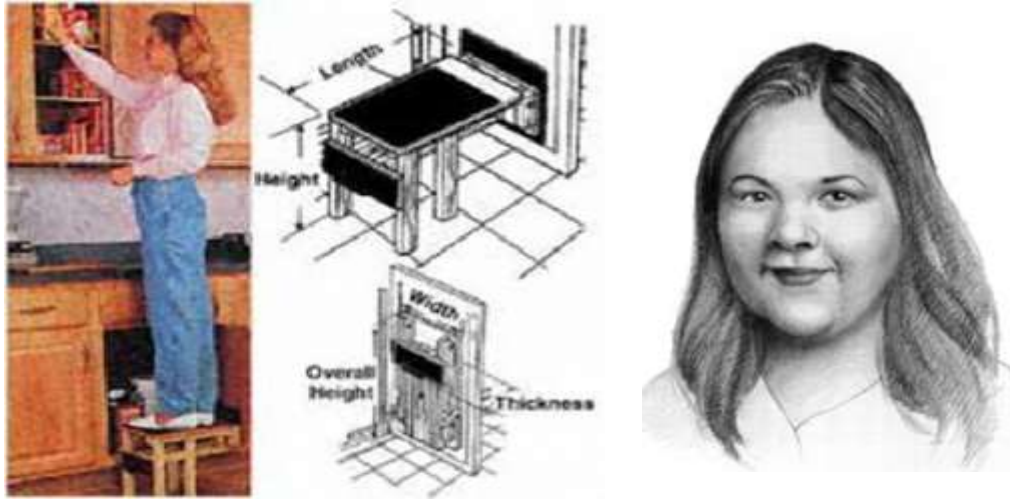
"NECESSITY MAY BE THE MOTHER OF INVENTION, BUT PLAY IS CERTAINLY THE FATHER."  
ROGER VON OECH  
© Lifepack Quotes

<https://www.bbc.com/reel/video/p08k84jw/why-the-way-our-children-watch-screens-matters>



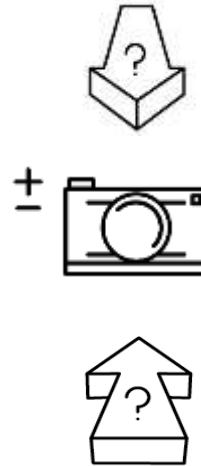
# Hometaalk discussion suggestions

## For age 3 – 5 years



<https://www.inventricity.com/jeannie-low-young-inventor>

Jennie Low (pictured top right) was only 5 when she invented the Kiddie Stool, that she could use to reach cupboards, but folded away under the sink. Five years later, she was the youngest person to be awarded a patent.



## Talking Points

- Of all the things that you use every day, which would you have been proudest to invent?
- Are there things that you use that you wish were better? Could you imagine making them better?
- When you are playing do you sometimes invent better ways of playing?

## Fun Activity

- LOOK on the internet for different pictures of stools for little children.
- Choose the one you like best and try to draw it (or even make one like it out of cardboard).

# Homework discussion suggestions

For ages 6 - 9



**The story of Alfred Nobel and the Nobel Prize**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZLK\\_J2NfX0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZLK_J2NfX0)

Parent check



## CONNECT and DIVIDE

- In a Pool of Ideas (a big circle) write down all the things you CONNECT with the word 'dynamite'.
- Then DIVIDE the ideas into 'positive' and 'negative' ones, i.e. things you think are good, and things you think are bad.
- Overall, do you think dynamite was a good invention?

## Talking Points

- Judging from the story of Alfred Nobel, do you think he was a good man or a bad man? What are your reasons?
- Should people be brought up to do good without being given prizes? Can prizes make people bad?



# Good turned bad?



Parent check

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNRXG8Izprk>

N.B. Although this is a short film out of the Sesame Street collection, it is not only witty – it raises rather a profound question about the long-term impact (or knock on effect) of inventions. Perhaps you could relate it to the invention of ‘smart’ phones, for example.

# Hometaalk discussion suggestions

## For all ages



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABrjdyavqkl>

The world in 2050

Parent check

## LOOK, DIVIDE & ZOOM in

- This video is a stylized, and perhaps over-idealistic, vision of how (parts of) the world might be in 30 years' time.
- We would encourage all viewers, whatever their age, to LOOK for **different** predictions / inventions, to pause and ZOOM in on them, and then discuss whether they are (a) likely, and (b) desirable.

## Talking Points

- Do you think ordinary humans are 'advancing' in their thinking and behaviour as quickly as scientists and their inventions?
- How much would you want to live in a world as shown in the film? If not, what would you try to prevent?

# Homework discussion suggestions

For age 10+ years



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNUfZ3\\_VkuE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNUfZ3_VkuE)

**Top 10 Inventions of All Time**



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJlpcyax8\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJlpcyax8_g)

**Top 10 Inventions in Human History**

Parent check



## CONNECT and DIVIDE

- The two videos provide a good basis for 'Compare & Contrast' – not just in the two lists, and their orders, but in the reasons they provide for their judgements.
- You could also compare the styles of presentation.

## Talking Points

- What are the most important criteria for deciding what counts as a great invention?
- Which video did you find most persuasive? Do you agree that the wheel was the top invention, or electricity? Or perhaps something else?
- Is electricity actually an invention, or just a discovery?
- Is mathematics an invention, or a discovery?

# Hometaalk discussion suggestions

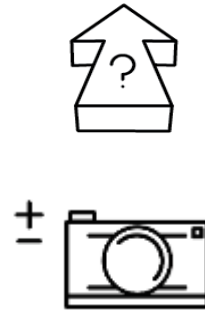
For age 10+ years



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxRIdL2CDBk>

**Top 7 Future Technologies**

Parent check



## Thinking AHEAD

- This is a very 'techie' video, and will not be every teenager's (or parent's) cup of tea. But do 'give it a go', and try to focus on the *content* of the presentation rather than the *style*!
- **Advice for parents:** then focus on just the aspect that your child finds most intelligible and interesting – remembering that change might happen quickly, perhaps even before they enter the adult world.

## Talking Points

- Is the high-tech world that the video talks about just a little scary? If so, is that because you like things as they are, or because you don't like some of the things predicted?
- How are people to ensure that advancing technology brings benefits without disadvantage or danger?

More stuff.....

<https://dialogueworks.co.uk/hometalk/>



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#P4C and #thinkingmoves



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