How this activity supports learning

The ability to empathize with others and appreciate different perspectives is crucial for effective and sensitive communication and collaboration. It is also at the heart of tolerance and respect for diversity. In this activity, students imagine that they are standing in the shoes of another person – real, hypothetical, or fictional. It is designed to help students become more aware of perspectives that might differ from theirs and the factors that may shape those perspectives.

Global skills covered:

- Communication and collaboration
- Intercultural competence and citizenship

Classroom instructions

The activity is best carried out in relation to a specific event or situation. For example:

- After watching a scene from a film or reading an extract from a book, students could complete the activity for one of the characters and then compare their ideas.

- As a follow-up to an activity relating to a social issue or an event from history, students could imagine they are a hypothetical person affected by that issue or event.

Variations

The worksheet could be used to lead into creative writing or drama activities. For example, students could write a blog post or diary entry from the perspective of a person or character. Alternatively, they could imagine the next scene of a film or play and perform it to the rest of the class.

The worksheet could also be used as a starting point for the creation of students’ own characters in role-play or creative writing activities.
### Miss Honey's First Day at School

**Person / character:** Miss Honey  
**Event / situation:** Matilda's first day at school

#### Thoughts
What are you thinking?  
- She's so good at reading and maths!  
- How is this possible? Did her parents teach her?  
- What other things can she do?

#### Feelings
How are you feeling?  
excited, curious, amazed

#### Values
What is important to you?  
- Helping children learn  
- Being kind

#### Physical sensations
What can you see / hear / taste / smell / feel?  
- 18 children sitting at their desks  
- Children talking

#### Hopes / goals
What do you want?  
- To be a good teacher  
- To keep the children safe

#### Fears
What are you afraid of?  
- Miss Trunchbull

---

### A European Immigrant Arriving in New York City

**Person / character:** A European immigrant to the U.S., in the early 1900's  
**Event / situation:** Arriving in New York City for the first time by boat

#### Thoughts
What are you thinking?  
- I can't believe we've finally arrived!  
- What will my new life be like?  
- New York is so big!  
- I want to get off this boat.

#### Feelings
How are you feeling?  
nervous, excited, homesick, tired, relieved

#### Values
What is important to you?  
- Giving my family a better life.  
- Having enough to eat.  
- Being able to work.

#### Physical sensations
What can you see / hear / taste / smell / feel?  
- I can see the New York City in the distance.  
- I can hear people talking and shouting and the sound of the boat.

#### Hopes / goals
What do you want?  
- a job, security, food, a safe place to live, money to help my family

#### Fears
What are you afraid of?  
- Maybe they won't let me enter the country…  
- What if I can't get a job?  
- What if I catch a disease?  
- I might never see my family again.
In their shoes

Person / character:

Thoughts
What are you thinking?

Values
What is important to you?

Hopes / goals
What do you want?

Event / situation:

Feelings
How are you feeling?

Physical sensations
What can you see / hear / taste / smell / feel?

Fears
What are you afraid of?