



Philosophy
Circles

Ah-Hah!

A light-hearted puzzle poem that invites discussion about speaking out loud and meanings.



Work out which meaning from the right hand verse matches up with the word from the left. Use the attached cards to put them around the room to do as a class, or with a set for each group. The great thing about this exercise is that they need to be read out loud - the intonation each line in the first verse needs to convey the exact meaning in the second verse.



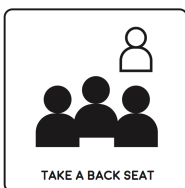
A suggested set of questions are:

- How much of what you mean is in what you say?
- How much is in how you say it
- How much is in things you don't say at all?
- What does "meaning" mean?
- Are there different kinds of meaning?

Body language may come into the discussion. There is a commonly believed but highly contested adage that 80-90% of communication is non-verbal. Researchers are divided on its accuracy, but most agree it only applies in certain situations.

From experience, children can find it difficult to express their opinions articulately, but body language is often subconscious and rarely belies their feelings. So maybe it does have some relevance.

For a brief excursion into citizenship, you could ask how best to show what you mean, beyond words themselves. This could provide some fruitful thinking on avoiding misunderstandings and conflict.



Attempting to define 'Meaning' and different types of it, without using the word itself, is a challenging and entertaining game. Pupils could discuss it in pairs before being hot-seated in front of the class, tasked with giving a definition followed by questions. Can anyone survive questioning without saying it?

NEXT STEPS

Set pupils the challenge of making their own poem in this style with variations on another commonly used term. Some examples:

Yes / Yeah / Yeah right.. etc.

No / No way / No! etc.

Right / Right! Righto / etc...

Ah hah!

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ah. | This is awkward. I thought you already knew. |
| Ahhh! | Isn't that sweet? |
| Aaah! | It hurts. |
| Aha! | Now I've got you. |
| Ha! | You think you've got me, but you'll never take me alive. |
| Ah hah! | Now I get it. |
| Ha ha! | You're funny. |
| Ahaha. | I think I'm funny. |
| Ha, ha, ha. | You think you're funny but I don't. |
| Ha ha ha ha ha! | I am mad and evil. |
| Hahahahahahaha. | I am mad but not evil. |
| Ho ho ho! | I am Father Christmas. |

Ah-Hah!

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ah. | You're funny. |
| Ahhh! | I think I'm funny. |
| Aaah! | I am mad and evil. |
| Aha! | You think you've got me, but you'll never take me alive. |
| Ha! | You think you're funny but I don't. |
| Ah hah! | This is awkward. I thought you already knew. |
| Ha ha! | It hurts. |
| Ahaha. | I am mad but not evil. |
| Ha, ha, ha. | I am Father Christmas. |
| Ha ha ha ha ha! | Isn't that sweet? |
| Hahahahahahaha. | Now I get it. |
| Ho ho ho! | Now I've got you. |

Ah.

Ahhh!

Aaah!

Aha!

Ha!

Ah-hah!

Ha-ha!

Ahaha

Ha, ha, ha.

Ha ha ha ha ha!

Hahahahahahaha

Ho ho ho!

You're funny.

I think I'm funny.

I am mad and evil.

You think you've
got me, but you'll
never take me alive

You think you're
funny but I don't

This is awkward. I
thought you
already knew.

It hurts.

I am mad but not
evil.

I am Father
Christmas.

Isn't that sweet?

Now I get it.

Now I've got you.