

Jason and the Golden Fleece

Conscience Alley

Stage a dramatic story telling with everyone having a part!

Don't do it! You will all be destroyed!

The gods don't want you to go!

Leave the ship and go by land!

You have to try. It is the only way!



Look that bird got through!

We have the fastest ship and the wind blows the right way!

Wait till they open and go as fast as you can!

Jason and the Golden Fleece - Conscience Alley

A conscience alley activity to support the telling of the story in a dramatic way. The class needs to be divided into five groups. The final part of the story can either be told by the teacher or by a selected child.

Webaddress:

www.collaborativelearning.org/jasonconsciencealley.pdf

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COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

17, Barford Street, Islington, London N1 0QB UK Phone: 0044 (0)20 7226 8885

Website: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. An online newsletter is also updated regularly.

*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of oracy. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of talk.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

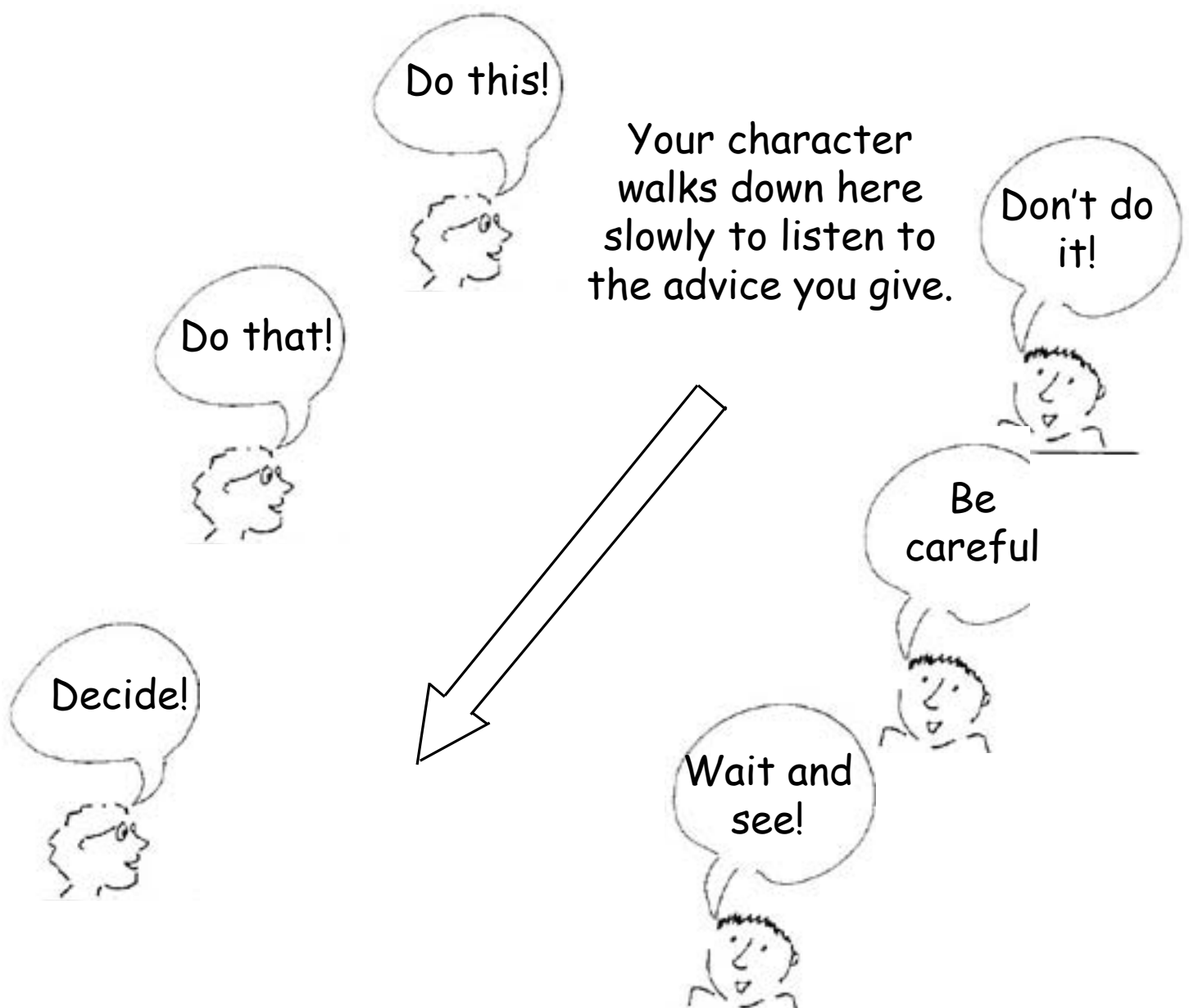
*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work more effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

Jason and the Golden Fleece - Conscience Alley

Your group has part of the story of Jason and the Golden Fleece. You are going to make a "Conscience Alley" for a character in the story. Look at the comments in the bubbles.

Are there any more comments you want to add? Decide who is going to walk down the alley. Decide who is going to say what. Then make an alley like the one below, and invite your character to walk slowly down it, while your group as a conscience makes suggestions. Make your comment just as the character walks by you. Listen to the other comments.



Athamas is a king in Greece. He has been married to Nephele. She is a minor goddess and is in charge of the clouds. They have two children: a son called Phrixas and a daughter called Helle. Now he is in trouble. He is now married to Ino and Nephele is not pleased. She has taken all the clouds away and the land is drying up. What should he do?

Athamus goes down the conscience alley!

Sacrifice a ram!

Get rid of Ino and Nephele will bring the clouds back!

Make a sacrifice to Zeus. He is more powerful than Nephele!

Make a sacrifice to Nephele!

Sacrifice your son Phrixas

Sacrifice Ino your new wife!

Sacrifice your daughter Helle





Ino and Athamas decide to sacrifice Phrixas to Zeus. He is put on the altar with his sister and prepares to die. Suddenly a cloud sweeps up, a golden ram descends and the children escape on its back. They fly east for a long time. Helle grows tired and falls, but Phrixas and the ram fly to Colchis at the far end of the Black Sea. Phrixas sacrifices the ram, and gives the fleece to Aites the king. He hangs it in a grove sacred to Ares, the god of war. A dragon that never goes to sleep guards it.

Back in Greece Pelias has stolen the kingdom from Athamas. He asks the oracle whether he will get into trouble for this. The oracle tells him to beware of a man with only one sandal on his foot. He sends for Jason who is the rightful heir to the kingdom and Jason arrives wearing only one sandal! What should Pelias do?

Pelias goes down the conscience alley!

Give Jason the kingdom! It is rightfully his!

Your father is god of the sea. Send Jason on a sea journey!

Colchis is miles away. The journey is impossible by sea.

Tell Jason that his father wants him to fetch the Golden Fleece!

Send him to get the Golden Fleece! It is a terrible journey! He won't come back!

Pelias tells Jason should fetch the fleece. He expects that he will not return. Jason asks Argus to build him a boat with fifty oars. He finds fifty heroes to be his crew. There are two sons of Boreas, the north wind. There is Mopsus who can look at the flight of birds and guess what the gods will do. There is Orpheus who can silence the wind and sea with his music. The goddess Athene gives Jason a useful speaking oak branch to put on the front of the boat. It can give advice on the best direction to take. Argo means swift, and the boat sails swiftly to the Hellespont (where Helle fell from the ram) and comes to the Clashing Rocks: huge blue rocks that clash together. The boat has to sail between them and will be crushed if they catch it. What should Jason do?

Jason goes down the conscience alley!

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They wait until the rocks began to open, and then row as fast as they can. The rock rush together again, but the ship is through and safe. After a long time they reached Colchis. Jason goes to Aites the king and demands the fleece. Aites promises he can have it, but he has to win it in a special way. He has to yoke two bulls that breathe fire, and plough the field of Ares, the god of war. Then he must sow dragon's teeth. Each one will grow into a fierce warrior. Jason will then have to fight the whole army. How can he win? What should he do?

Jason goes down the conscience alley!

It's impossible!
There will be too
many of them!

The king's
daughter seems to
like you. Why not
ask her?

You will have to
get the Argonauts
to help!

There is sure to be a
way. Maybe someone
can help you?



Break your promise
to the king and take
the fleece now!

Good idea! Someone
says she is a
sorceress. She'll
know a trick or two!

Medea does offer her help. She gives Jason an ointment that gives him the strength of seven men. He must be quick because it loses its power at sunset. He covers himself, his shield and helmet, and goes back to the Argonauts. He pulls seven of them in a tug of war. The ointment is very strong! He manages to plough the field and plant the teeth. The ground heaves and armed soldiers thrust up. What should he do now?



Jason goes down the conscience alley!

Now you have done it! They don't look very friendly!

Do you think they might get on your side?

Tell them you are their leader!

There are hundreds of them!

Better idea! Ask Medea what to do next!

She's clever! And an expert at magic.

Jason and the Golden Fleece Final Part

Luckily Medea is just behind him. "Throw your helmet in among them," she whispers. Jason throws his helmet. It hits a warrior. He hits the man next to him. The other warrior hits back and a fight begins. In half an hour all the warriors have killed each other and disappear into the earth.

Aites is not pleased that Jason has won. He refuses to give him the fleece. Medea tells him to bring the Argonauts to the secret grove. She charms the dragon and Opheus plays soft music. It goes to sleep. Jason takes the fleece and the sail away. After a long journey and many adventures they return to King Pelias. He is now blind, but he feels the fleece, and gives Jason the kingdom.

