

Seeing the world differently

A simple technique to help pupils reflect on the views of others and to build empathy.

Aims

- ▶ To think about 'perspective' and how we create our point of view
- ▶ To reflect on how images can be used to challenge or change our perspective

What you need

Selection of images – one per pair photocopied so half of the picture is blanked out.

- Sunbathers and Refugees:
<https://bit.ly/2OJp01z>
- Golfers and Refugees:
<https://bit.ly/2xNFBVF>
- Skyscrapers and Slums
– See picture on the next page

What to do

Give each group or pair a photo – showing half the image. Ask each group to discuss what they think is on the other side of each picture, and then ask each group to share their image and what they think is on the other side of the photo. Show them the complete pictures.

What difference does it make?

Introduce the concept of **perspective**.

Explain that perspective is point of view: how someone sees a situation, and their feelings and opinions about a situation.

Point out that there are always at least two sides to every story and the way the image is presented changes the perspective of the photo.

Discuss how we can be manipulated by headlines and images in the media to lead us to form a particular view point.

Reflection and evaluation

Relate the idea of perspective to reading. Explain to students that when we read, we see the story from the perspective of the narrator, ie whoever is telling the story at a particular point. Explain that we come to understand a character's perspective by creating mental images. When we pay attention to a character's perspective (or all of the characters' perspectives), we are engaging in **critical thinking**, and this kind of thinking helps us be better readers. Sum up the explanation of perspective with the analogy of "walking in someone else's shoes." In the case of reading, you are taking off your own shoes and putting on the narrator's shoes to walk through the story.



