

# THUNKS ON DEATH

## Introduction

Thunks™ are 'beguilingly simple-looking questions' that make your brain go ouch. They grew out of educator and writer Ian Gilbert's work on Philosophy for Children and have proved incredibly popular with teachers around the world as a quick and easy tool for getting children and young people's brains to hurt. This particular set, a collaboration between Winston's Wish and Independent Thinking, is specifically designed to open up thinking and discussion around the topics of death, grief and bereavement.

## Instructions

The only Golden Rule when it comes to Thunks is that there are no 'right' answers. Their purpose is to encourage thought, debate, argument and philosophical reflection as well as practising speaking and listening skills. From working on a single Thunk as an entire class to having one each, one between two or working in smaller 'communities of enquiry', from using them as lessons starters to building whole lessons around a single Thunk, teachers have used them in many, many ways with children of all ages and academic backgrounds. Good luck!

Winston's Wish is a Registered Charity (England and Wales) 1061359, (Scotland) SC041140 | 0308



**Is being alive a choice?**



**If every time you laughed, it knocked a minute off your life, would you stop laughing?**

**Is it better to die suddenly than be given a month to live?**



**Is it ever cruel to save a life?**

**Can you choose not to be sad?**



**Do you love a family member less after they've died?**

**Should we be made to live longer if we can?**

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**Can you love someone who's not around?**

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**Do all your family members have to be alive to be part of your family?**

**Is anything worth dying for?**

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**Does grief hurt?**

**If you dream of someone who has died, are you dreaming of their ghost?**

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**Does a child know what death is?**

**If you could live forever, would you want to?**

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**Can death ever be happy?**

**Is losing a loved one harder the older they are?**

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**Do you die when the last person who remembers you dies?**

**Can you love someone you can't see?**

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**Is it really better to have loved and lost than not have loved at all?**

**Do you still own the things you've lost forever?**

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**Can you choose to be happy?**

**Is quantity more important than quality when it comes to your life?**

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**Are funerals always sad?**

**Are you a different person once both your parents die?**

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**Is it an act of love to let someone you love die before you?**

**If you put the brain of someone who has died into a robot, have you brought that person back to life?**

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**Is a funeral a party?**

**Should your online profile be deleted as soon as you die?**

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**If someone is being kept alive, are they living?**