

## ‘Oh the Places You’ll Go!’ — Positivity

### EXPLANATION:

There is something instantaneously likable about “The Places You Will Go.” It is Dr. Seuss’s last published book in 1990. In this book Dr. Seuss suggests that the reader can steer themselves in any direction that they choose. This activity asks students to interrogate the text and illustrations to find quotes about positivity and share their ideas and analysis with the group.

**YEAR LEVELS:** Years 11–12

**STUDENT GROUPING:** Whole group discussion — research in small groups (2 – 3 people) to facilitate discussion — plus group presentations

**ACTIVITY LENGTH:** Dedicate a lesson time for research and time for presentations

### LINK TO CURRICULUM:

**Representation of General capabilities in Senior English can be linked to this activity:**

#### ***Critical and creative thinking:***

Critical and creative thinking is integral to the study of and creation of texts in *English*. Students analyse and evaluate issues and ideas presented in texts. In both thinking about and creating their own texts, they recognise and develop arguments, use evidence and draw reasoned conclusions. Students experiment with text structures and language features as they transform and adapt texts for different purposes, contexts and audiences. Students use critical thinking when they use their knowledge of language to analyse a range of texts in relation to their purpose, context, audience, structural and language features, and underlying and unstated assumptions. They investigate the ways language is used to position individuals and social and cultural groups. Creative thinking enables students to apply imaginative and inventive capacities in the creation of their own original works.

#### ***Information and communication technology (ICT) capability:***

There is a particular focus in *English* on ICT through the use of digital texts and on understanding and creating multimodal texts. For example, students explore the effects of sound and image as they consider how ideas are communicated in digital texts. They use digital technologies when they access, manage and use information and when creating their own texts. They develop skills in reading, viewing and responding to digital and multimodal texts and analysing the effects of the use of different mediums on meaning and interpretation.

## SCOPE OF TASK:

Some notes about positivity:

- There are health benefits associated with positive thinking and positive action – including lower rates of depression and distress
- Positivity requires an optimistic outlook, looking for solutions, expecting good results and success
- Being positive supports self esteem
- An individual's positive energy and actions can influence other people's emotions and wellbeing
- Emotions associated with positivity include joy, love, gratitude and inspiration
- Being positive does not mean that negative feelings are not experienced or ignored. It is essential to acknowledge them, learn from them and use the knowledge gained to improve.

Dr. Seuss - Theodor Geisel's final book in 1990 was *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* (1990) –

***You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself any direction you choose.***

1. Introduce the book *Oh the Places You'll go* to the whole group of students. Tell them that this is typically a story book for young readers but it has been read to a range of audiences for many reasons. For example, it has been read at graduation ceremonies to inspire people to consider all their life options. Tell the students that this activity is going to require them to explore quotations from the book and choose one they find positive and meaningful. Initially determine students' prior knowledge of positivity via a group discussion. Questions could include:
  - What is positivity?
  - What are positive actions?
  - How does positive feel?
  - Is it ok to still have doubts and negative thinking when being positive?
  - Are we always positive?
2. If you have the book please read it to your students. If not, please use the YouTube video presenting the story and some ideas about positivity



3. Inform the students that in small groups (2 to 3 people) they are going to interrogate text and pictures of the book to extend their understanding and discover different examples of positivity (allow students to self-select their groups).

4. To complete the activity students, need to:

- Access the book to read the text and interpret the illustrations. This can be done by viewing the You Tube video again or also accessing a PDF of the book online. For example: <https://fliphtml5.com/hskwf/vhoy/basic>. Students can also research the book and quotes online
- Students are to choose one quote from the book that connects to positivity and one that they find meaningful. Ask students to consider the illustrations and what they also might mean in relation to the quote and their ideas of positivity.
- Once the quote is chosen students are to make a PowerPoint slide that includes the quote and the reason/s why it was chosen (2 or 3 dot points). Students can use design tools to decorate/illustrate their slide.



**Students can email the PowerPoint slide to the teacher who compiles them into a PowerPoint presentation.**

5. When the PowerPoint presentation is compiled it can be played to the whole group. Each small group can discuss their slide providing more details about the quote. For example: where they found the quote in the book; why they chose it; do the illustrations connect to their ideas; how does it relate to their understanding of positivity. Note: Each group's understanding of positivity might be different, and this could be an interesting conversation.

6. Once the discussion is completed share the PowerPoint with the student group so that they can review and reflect on positivity quotes.

***"You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way!"***

## RESOURCES:

- Computers
- Internet access
- Microsoft PowerPoint

Seuss, Dr. (1990). *Oh, the places you'll go!* New York: Random House.

Online video: The Kindness Curriculum- Oh the places you'll go! read by Professor Tania Aspland sourced from: <https://youtu.be/d2QkPODYmxA>



