



GREAT LEARNERS GREAT THINKERS

ATTITUDES TO THE YOUNG AND OLD

Lesson aim: To think about the challenges and opportunities at different stages of life

Video: How does it feel to be old?

SEL Social and emotional learning: Keeping an open mind

1 **SPKING** Ask and answer the questions.

- 1 What do you think are the positive or negative aspects of being a senior citizen? Make two lists.
- 2 'Ageism' is when people treat other people in an unfair or negative way on the basis of their age (e.g. senior citizens). What examples of ageism can you think of?

2 **VIDEO** Watch the video and answer the questions.

- 1 How do people react to Chris as a senior citizen?
- 2 Is Chris generally happy or unhappy about being old?

3 **VIDEO** Watch the video again. Complete the sentences with one or two words or a number.

- 1 By profession, Chris is a _____.
- 2 He is _____ years old but uses make-up to appear over _____.
- 3 Chris's _____ doesn't recognise Chris because of the make-up.
- 4 Recent studies say that by being _____ you can add up to _____ years to your life.
- 5 _____ let Chris cross the street.
- 6 As a senior citizen Chris can sit down when using _____.

4 Read the text and answer the questions.

- 1 What negative ideas do people have about becoming old?
- 2 In what ways can negative attitudes be a problem for senior citizens?
- 3 What positive discovery did the research make?

ABOUT STUDIES LATEST NEWS

Ageism in the UK

A study from the Royal Society for Public Health shows that almost a third of people of different ages think that 'being lonely is just something that happens when you get old'. A quarter of millennials believe it's normal for older people to be unhappy.

These negative ideas stop us from thinking of old age as an opportunity for new experiences. And they can lead to increased memory loss amongst senior citizens, a worse ability to recover from illness and a negative body image. But the study showed one positive attitude: 69% of people agreed that 'fundamentally, older people are no different from people of other ages'.



GREAT THINKERS

Sentence-Phrase-Word

5 **SPKING** Follow the instructions.

- 1 Find one sentence in the text that talks about a key concept.
- 2 Choose one phrase in the text that moved you, interested you, or provoked you.
- 3 Choose one word in the text that you think was central to the idea(s) in the text.
- 4 Share your sentence, phrase and word with other students. Are they similar or different? What ideas or themes come out of your discussion?

6 **SPKING** Ask and answer the questions.

- 1 What negative attitudes do you think exist towards teenagers? Are they justified?
- 2 What do you think are the positive attitudes that society should have towards teenagers?

GREAT LEARNERS

SEL

Great learners are open-minded and positive towards others.

In this lesson, you are examining stereotypical attitudes towards teenagers and senior citizens. Why is it important to be aware of and question these stereotypical representations?

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