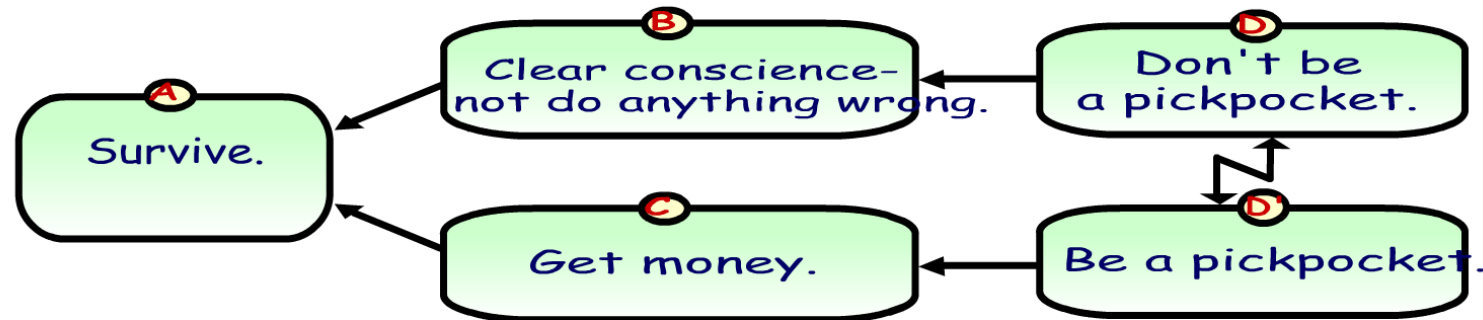


STORY TELLING: OLIVER TWIST

The children have been having snippets of the story of Oliver Twist in our morning assembly-- 299 children between the ages of 4-7! I ask myself, "How can I extend their thinking by using the cloud?" I decide to look at the dilemma faced by Oliver when he realises he is expected to steal with the rest of the gang to provide funds for Fagin. The children quickly settled on the steal/don't steal dilemma.

They were aware that Oliver considered stealing to be wrong and it troubled his conscience (a new concept that needed explaining to some!) and that Fagin needed the money. They thought the goal of both parties would be just to 'survive.' Can we all relate?



As the children were already aware of how to build up a cloud, this process was not as onerous as I had expected and it showed good transference of learning. Then we moved on to possible solutions.

Content: Literature, Linda Trappnell and children

Nottingham, England

Story telling: Oliver Twist p.2

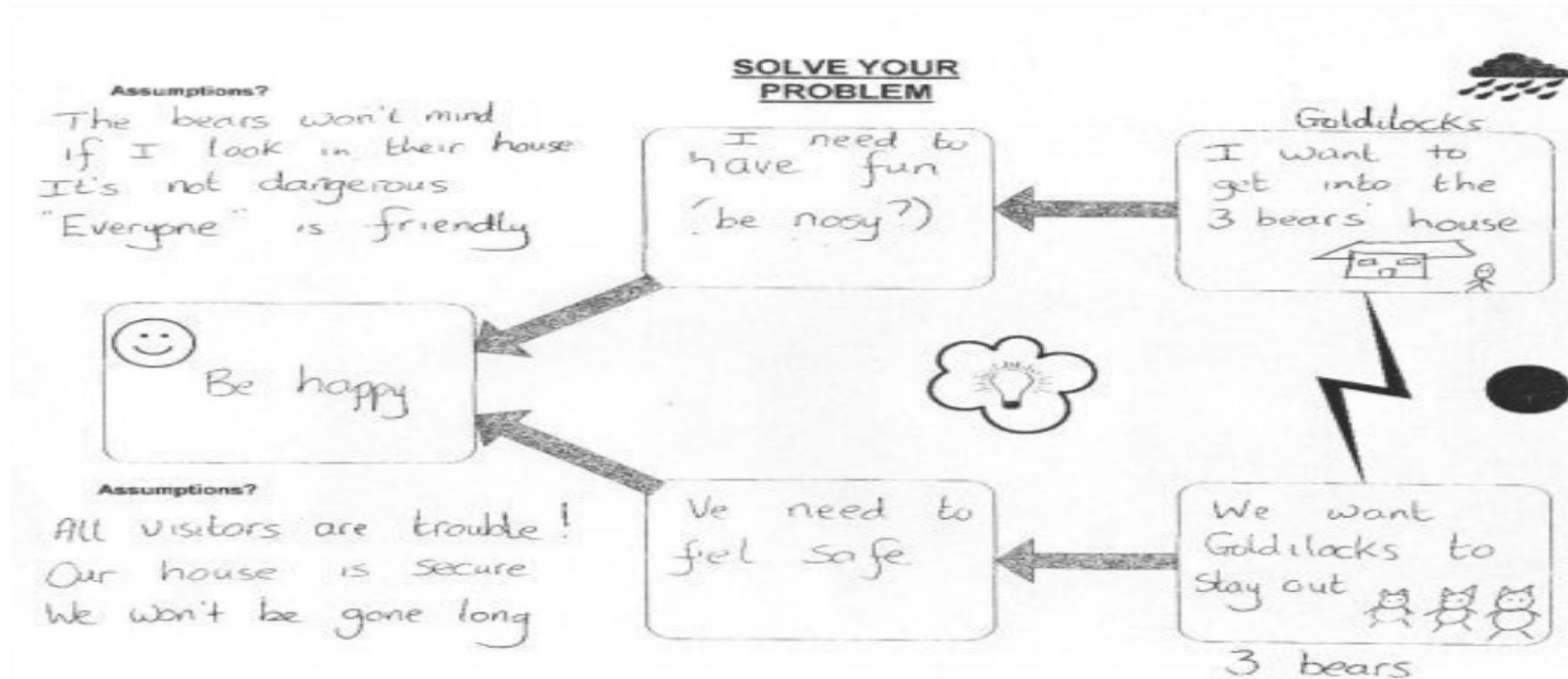
Using the TOC process, we considered the needs of both parties-- clear conscience (do what's right)/get money. I asked the children to consider assumptions and they rapidly came up with "You don't have to steal to get money!" Suggestions were then made of other ways to get money for Fagin: Washing cars and delivering newspapers gave me the opportunity for a teachable moment in History! Looking after horses and street cleaning were considered viable alternatives.

What a good way to raise discussion in a structured way over an issue of conscience.

The whole experience generated so much interest and involvement from the children that this seems a way forward to open up children's minds to thinking around problems and issues. With an element of success in the air, I began to wonder if we could use Traditional Tales to teach the cloud structure to learn the desired skills and content. I gathered a group of 5-6 yr. olds and we looked at the well-known tale of the Three Bears. We looked at the conflict between the Bears and Goldilocks about entry into the house!

The children really enjoyed raising assumptions. Their injections were amusing and showed a good grasp of home security and supervision issues.

"I'm now convinced-the teaching of the cloud process and the teaching of content can be interwoven and the children gain immeasurably not only by gaining knowledge, but in developing thinking skills. "



" The cloud helps you sort the story out so you know people can feel happier." Guy-age 7 years

" I remember the stories better because I understand the cloud." Molly-age 6 years