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QUESTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Stories 4 Wings

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Ability to Cope with Social Exclusion

The Garden of Understanding

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This document includes a series of **9 questions focused on reflecting** on different aspects related to the story being worked on. The questions are organized into three levels of complexity and depth, as follows:

Questions 1 to 3

focus on achieving a basic understanding and identification with the story and characters.

Questions 4 to 6

introduce reflection on the value, skill, or competency being addressed from different perspectives, such as emotional self-exploration or the observation of different attitudes or behaviors.

Questions 7 to 9

encourage deeper reflection and invite participants to approach the different topics from a symbolic perspective, imagining alternative scenarios or relating them to their possible future attitudes or actions.

Some **recommendations** for using this guide are:

Approach reflection in a **relaxed and open way**, without explicitly announcing the values or competences that the activity aims to explore.

Allow participants to arrive at their own interpretations and conclusions **gradually**.

The activity should create a **safe space**, where emotions, thoughts and opinions are welcome.

There are **no right or wrong** answers.

Participation should never be forced; **silence and listening are also valid** forms of engagement.

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1

Who are the main characters in the story, and where does Maya usually go during recess?

Checks that participants have understood the basic setup of the story. It confirms foundational comprehension before moving to deeper reflection.

2

What project did Maya find in her backpack, and what did she decide to do?

Targets understanding of the story's turning point. It confirms that participants can follow the plot's cause-and-effect sequence.

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3

How does Maya feel at the beginning of the story? What details in the story help you understand her feelings?

By asking participants to point to specific details. It also gently introduces empathy for Maya's situation and creating a safe opening for personal connection.

4

When Maya shares her knowledge of plants with the others, the story says 'her shyness melted away.' Why do you think sharing what she knew helped her feel that way?

Explores the link between feeling competent and feeling accepted. It invites participants to reflect on Maya's internal world without asking them directly about their own experiences yet.

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5

What personal qualities helped Maya's parents contribute so much to the group?

Rather than naming values explicitly this question asks participants to identify them through the story. The message directly relevant to participants in detention contexts.

6

How do you think the story looked from Emma's point of view, what might she have been thinking or feeling all along?

The question opens a conversation about how fear and misunderstanding can create distance between people even when neither side intends harm. It invites participants to consider how barriers can exist on both sides.

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7

Maya realises that the exclusion she experienced 'had been about fear and misunderstanding on both sides.' Do you agree with this conclusion?

It invites critical thinking and healthy disagreement. This stimulates genuine dialogue about power, responsibility, and the complexity of social belonging.

8

At the end Maya says she has 'found her place in the garden of understanding.' What do you think the garden represents beyond just a physical place?

The garden is the central metaphor of the story, representing a community built on diverse contributions, shared effort, and mutual respect. The question invites participants to move beyond the literal and explore symbolic meaning.

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9

What types of people or strengths do you think make a community stronger?

A small illustration of an open book with several small, colorful flowers (pink, yellow, and blue) growing from its pages.

This question bridges the story to the participant's own life and values. It uses the story's metaphor as a springboard for personal reflection on community, belonging, and contribution.