

Die großen Fragen des Lebens (englische Fassung)

Filmtext

What Makes Me Me?

This is Dave. Dave owns a wooden ship, called the Theseus. And that's Dave's wife. She doesn't like goodbyes. Dave and his crew are setting off on a long voyage. It's a tough voyage, with many storms and mishaps. And it gets really hard to keep the ship sailing and to stop bits of it falling into the water! Every time the ship is damaged, Dave takes the Theseus to George's shipyard, and George replaces the broken wooden bits with shiny new metal ones. But there are many dangers – like Olly the Octopus, who does like a bit of fish and ships. And so, every few months of his journey, Dave heads back to see George and has any broken wooden bits replaced with metal. And each time the ship gets damaged, more metal parts are added, and so on and so on, until – Eventually every part of the Theseus has been replaced. The ship is now entirely metal – inside and out! When Dave gets home, his wife, who's really been missing Dave a great deal, is surprised. She wants to know why he's got a new ship.

Dave:

"I haven't got a new ship. "

Dave's wife insists that it can't be the same ship. Dave insists that it is. This goes back and forth for what seems like an eternity. But Dave's wife won't budge.

Dave's wife:

"Your ship was wooden, and this ship is metal. Nothing of the old ship remains."

What do you think?

- Is it the same ship?
- At what point did it become a different ship?

Dave and his wife haven't stopped arguing about whether it's the same ship when suddenly, over the horizon, a familiar shape appears. It's the – Theseus? Only made of wood. How did this happen? It turns out George always wanted his own ship. So, rather cleverly, he kept all the wooden bits that fell off the original Theseus and decided to rebuild it. It needed a lot of hard work and an awful lot of nails, but it looks very good now he's finished. The minute she sees the ship, Dave's wife thinks it's Dave's ship – the Theseus. So what does this mean? They're both called the Theseus, and they both look the same – well, except that one's made of wood and one is made of metal. It's all getting a bit confusing. Oh dear!

- Does this mean that there are two Theseuses, or just one?
- Which ship is the Theseus?

Now, this is all very well with ancient ships and whatnot, but what happens if we think about something a little closer to home? Like, I dunno – You? You see, like Dave's ship, our bodies change and grow throughout our lives. We're born, we grow up into toddlers, then children and we keep growing into

teenagers, then adults. And we continue changing our whole lives. Our hair grows and falls out and more grows without us even noticing. We get a whole new set of teeth. Everything changes. So, if every part of us gets replaced too, like Dave's ship, then that raises a big question:

- Am I the same person I was when I was born?
- And if I am, what makes me, me?

Who Owns The Sky?

Along a great river, there are two villages. The first one, way upriver, is a farming village. Full of – well – farmers. Now, this village isn't a very happy place. There's never enough water to feed the crops, and the people are very hungry. Rotten crops. Rumbling tums. Bad tempers. You get the idea. However, some way downriver, there's a fishing village. Full of – well – fisher people. Now, they depend on the river for all their food, and they have lots of lovely fish to eat. But, one day – oh no! – they discover that their lovely fish-filled river has dried up completely. No water. Nothing. No fish at all. Not even a goldfish. With no fish to eat, people start to go hungry. And so, a fearless fisher girl from the village sets off to find out why the river has dried up. Packing the last of the fish-paste sandwiches, she follows the dry river all the way to the farmers' village. There she meets a farmer boy.

Farmer boy:

"Welcome to our village! It's a great place! We have plenty to eat and our crops have lots of water – all thanks to our dam!"

The fisher girl is horrified.

Fisher girl:

"You've stolen our water!"

What do you think?

- Have the farmers stolen the water?
- Who owns the river? Who owns the fish in the river?

The fisher girl explains to the farmer boy how the dam has stopped the river flowing down to their village. She tells him all about her village going hungry because they have no more fish. The farmer boy feels bad. He hadn't thought about how this would affect his neighbours. And then he has an idea:

Fisher boy:

"Why don't the fisher people just come and live with us?"

The fisher girl isn't sure this will solve the problem. After all, the fisher people have lived in their village for hundreds of years. Everything they do is based around fish and fishing. If the fisher people come and live with the farmers, they'll have to change their entire way of life. Not only that, even if the fisher people come to the farming village, will the farmers welcome them? It's an awful lot of new mouths to feed, for a start. Well there are a lot of things to consider here.

- Are the farmers selfish for not considering the fisher people?
- What do you think they should all do?

Why Should I Be Good?

This is Ben. He's just walking along when – oh hang on, he's found something. It's a ring. It's not just any ring though, it's a magic ring. A real, proper magic ring that makes you disappear when you put it on. So now Ben – Err? Is he still there? Ah. So now Ben starts imagining the awesome things he can do with his new power. He could use the ring to help people, like stopping nasty burglars before they can get away. So kind of like a real superhero. Maybe he needs a name: Invisible Boy! But then he could also use it to play tricks on people, which might not be helpful but could be quite funny.

- What would you do if you had a ring of invisibility?
- What would be the right thing to do?

Soon, Ben gets bored just thinking about what he's going to do with the ring and decides to have a little bit of fun with it. There's Sophie, having a lovely doll's tea party, and then along comes Ben to wreak havoc with it. Later on, Ben's just playing ball with Karim, when – Enter the magic ring again – which helps him disappear and cleverly avoid getting caught.

- Is it okay to do naughty things if you can't get caught?

So, Ben's become quite attached to being invisible and he finds himself thinking he'd like one of those lovely juicy apples. He could just steal one. And if he's invisible he can't get caught, can he? But Sophie has seen what he's up to and ever so quietly, she creeps up on him and catches him in the act!

Sophie:

“Why don't you use your power to do good things?”

She tells him that doing good things makes her feel happy and that we should all do good things because – well – because it's good. What do you think?

- Does doing good things make you happy?
- What other reasons are there for doing good things?

What's Fair?

Sophie, Ben and Karim are going on a quest. Adventure! Excitement! Peril! You know, all the usual “questy” stuff. Their plan is to find the mysterious golden bird, which lives deep in the forest. Unfortunately, they haven't actually set off yet, because they've spent the past two hours arguing about who's going to carry what. Karim has hurt his arm, so he doesn't think he should carry too much. In fact, he's going to struggle to carry anything! Sophie is the smallest, and so she thinks she should carry less than the others, especially Ben, who's much bigger. But Ben is seriously unhappy about carrying more stuff, because he's only brought a tiny amount. He thinks: He can't help being bigger. Why should he have to carry other people's stuff? So how are they going to sort it out – and actually find the golden bird – now that they're not even talking to each other?

- What is the fairest way to share out the kit?
- What does 'fair' mean?

Hours later and they've still not decided who's carrying what. Well now it's lunchtime, and Sophie's tummy is making some rather strange noises. She says they should eat before they carry on and suggests they all share out their lunches. Karim has brought a pretty decent spread – lots of tasty stuff to keep them going. But Ben has only brought what he can afford, which isn't as much. And Sophie's brought – well – loads. Karim's not sure about sharing when he's brought more than Ben. But then he has an idea – maybe Ben could earn some extra food if he agrees to carry more on the journey. But Ben doesn't think it's fair to make him do all the work just because he hasn't got as much food. This is going to be tricky and – oh dear! – It looks like they've spent so long arguing the bird has flown off on a quest of his own. Oh look, he's left them a little present.

- Is there a solution that makes everyone happy?
- Is fairness important?

Am I Always Responsible For My Actions?

On the banks of a river sits a scorpion. This scorpion has got lost, and she's separated from her family by a huge river. Now, you may not know this, but scorpions can't swim, so she can't cross it. She's stuck! At that moment, a frog passes by. Now of course, frogs can swim, so she asks the frog for help.

Frog:

"Pff! I don't think so! Scorpions and frogs are deadly enemies. Scorpions sting frogs. When we're halfway across, you'll sting me."

Scorpion:

"Why would I do that? It makes no sense! If I sting you, I won't get across the river to my family."

But the scorpion can see that the frog's still not sure.

Scorpion:

"I promise I won't sting you."

What do you think?

- Should the frog carry the scorpion across?

Eventually, after a lot of pleading from the scorpion, the frog agrees to carry her across the river. Now what looks like a short distance to you is quite a long journey for a frog, especially when you've got someone your own size on your back – and it's a scorpion! Halfway across the river, the frog feels a sharp pain on his head. The scorpion has stung him!

Frog:

"Why did you do that? Now we'll both drown!"

Scorpion:

"I can't help it! Scorpions sting frogs! It's in my nature."

And with that, both the scorpion and the frog sink down into the river.

- Who was responsible for what happened to the frog and the scorpion?
- What did the scorpion mean when she said it's in her nature?

That's all very well for frogs and scorpions, but what does this have to do with humans? Well, let's take Karim as an example. Karim's always been a bit careless with other people's things. Karim's best friend Sophie has a telescope that he really wants to borrow. The thing is, Sophie's not sure – she knows Karim is careless. But he promises to be careful with it, so eventually she decides to lend him the telescope. Karim heads off, carrying the telescope extra-carefully. He spends the evening looking at the stars, making sure he's being extra-careful. And the next day, on his way to return it to Sophie, he sees a group of little baby scorpions looking cute on the banks of the river. It looks like Karim might not have been extra-careful this time. And that means he has broken his promise to Sophie. She's probably going to be rather upset.

- Could Karim have stopped himself from breaking his promise?
- How is Karim's promise different to the Scorpion's promise?