

ONE-BUTTON AND THE SEA

A THINKING EXPERIMENT

to use together with the book

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Some stories lend themselves to discussion. This *One-Button and the Sea* thinking experiment is designed to encourage adults and children to talk together and share ideas. Not all questions need answers. Children are naturally curious about the world they are growing up in, and an intrinsic part of childhood is a desire to make connections and empathise with others. Children know more than we think they do, and love to share their thoughts using imagination and creativity. The questions they ask often puzzle adults, and children feel valued and respected when they feel part of a world where even grown ups don't have answers to everything. Take some time to talk together about these questions in a fun, relaxed environment, and enjoy playing with ideas.

1.

One day something very strange happened in the place One-Button lived, and everyone had to quickly leave on their boats in the middle of the night.

One-Button and Grandpa both had just enough time to grab something important as they left. What might they have needed?

What one item would you have chosen to take with you and why?

2.

During the long wait at sea Grandpa and One-Button did lots of thinking together.

Here are some of the questions they asked each other. You might like to have a go at giving your own answers.

Grandpa, would you rather we were lost at sea OR

In a jungle OR

On the moon?

Well One-Button, that is a big question.

Would YOU rather share our little boat with
A sleepy lion OR
A biting red ant OR
A mischievous monkey?

Grandpa, tell me again what you think. If we must live in a boat at sea forever, would you rather run out of

Books OR

Wool OR

Tea and chocolate biscuits?

Now that is a tricky question One-Button, laughed Grandpa.

Here's one for you.

If you could choose to be someone else would you rather be

A super intelligent robot OR

A world-famous superstar OR

An invisible version of you?

3.

Some days Grandpa and One-Button thought a lot about home and wondered many things.

Is home still home when we are not there?

Do you think home misses us when we are not there?

Is home a place or a feeling?

Can home be anywhere?

What do you think?

4.

Some days when the sea was calm and still, Grandpa asked funny questions.

One-Button, do you think if we swapped our clothes and brains would you be me and I be you?

And, if your button fell off your raincoat, would you still be One-Button? What if you had no name at all what would happen then?

5.

Some days when the weather was stormy, and the boats tossed and turned, One-Button asked questions to feel better.

Grandpa, is being scared a good thing?

Can thinking happy thoughts make you happy and what would it be like if we were never allowed to be sad?

Even the sea and the land get angry and sad sometimes One-Button, said Grandpa.

What thoughts would you share with One-Button about these questions?

6.

One day, One-Button's thoughts were so silent that it sounded like home was calling cross the sea. One-Button knew that it was calling them back.

Grandpa explained to everyone that home might not be the same. They might have to live differently. He called a meeting and asked everyone to imagine what the future might look like.

Someone thought there would be no rules anymore.

Somebody asked would they still need money?

And someone else thought nobody would need to go to school again.

Would you like any of these new ways of living? How do YOU think life will be different for you in the future?

Well, said Grandpa, we will just have to wait and see.

Now go and play little ones.