

The Mona Lisa

This puzzle comes from a book called, 'Just Think', by Philip West.

Each puzzle in the book starts with an argument between twins, Philip and Phoebe. They rarely agree on anything and always believe themselves to be correct.

From learning about the 4Cs, we know to be caring when our opinions differ. Read or listen to their argument, think about their disagreement, and make up your own mind.

Philip and Phoebe, the terrible twins, have just got back from a trip to Paris. While they were there, they visited Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting, the Mona Lisa, in the Louvre museum. Phoebe thinks the painting is wonderful but, not surprisingly, Philip begs to differ.

'I don't see what all the fuss is about,' says Philip. 'I certainly wouldn't pay millions of pounds to buy it. It's not as if the colours are pretty or anything.'

'But' replies Phoebe, genuinely shocked, 'it is one of the greatest paintings in the world! All the art experts agree it's a masterpiece. Surely you must see that?'

'Well, I don't like it', answers Philip, 'and I don't see why I should. Beauty is just a matter of opinion, after all, and I don't think it's beautiful.'

'Oh dear, Philip,' says Phoebe in her most infuriatingly superior tone. 'Maybe one day, when you are older, you'll come to appreciate it. All the best people do, you know.'

- **Is beauty a matter of opinion, or are some things beautiful whether we realise it or not?**
- **Is 'great art' simply a matter of personal taste?**
- **Which are more beautiful, and why: human works of art or the beauties of nature?**
- **How should we decide how much a painting is worth?**

