

## What is a game?

*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, are at it again. This time they are arguing over what the word "game" means.

Philip thinks that all games must have something special in common that makes them games. But he is having trouble pinning down what this special something is.

'All games involved two sides,' he says, 'like by black and white in chess.'

'No, they don't,' countered Phoebe. 'What about I-Spy? That's a game, but there are no sides.'

'OK then,' says Philip. 'I'm sure all games must involve winning and losing. Even I-spy is like that.'

'No,' says Phoebe, with an infuriating smile. 'Ring-a-Ring-a-Roses is a game, but it has no winners or losers. Try again!'

'Right,' says Philip through clenched teeth. 'At least all games involve more than one person. I've got you there!'

'Patience?' replies Phoebe, looking even more smug.

'OK then,' says Philip. 'You tell me what all games have in common.'

'Nothing,' says Phoebe sweetly. 'Absolutely nothing. Something is a "game" if I choose to call it one, that's all. I can call anything a game if I like.'

'Oh really! Sisters!' shouts Philip, stomping off in a huff.

- Is there something that all games have in common? And if so, what is it?
- Can you call anything a game if you want to?
- What makes a game a game?
- What other questions are you thinking about?