

## What is art?

*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.*

*In 1972, an unusual exhibit was brought by the Tate, a leading art Gallery in London. Entitled **Equivalent VIII**, it consisted simply of 120 normal building bricks arranged on the floor in a rectangle two bricks deep.*

*Opinion was divided at the time, between those who thought the Tate had wasted its money and those who believed it had obtained an important and ground-breaking work of art. Not surprisingly, opinion is also divided on the subject between Philip and Phoebe, our intrepid philosophical twins.*

*'A pile of bricks? Oh, for goodness sake!' protests Philip. 'Since when have bricks been "art"? It's not even as if they're arranged in an interesting pattern or anything. I could do that in ten minutes, and I'm not an artist. It's just silly!*

*But Phoebe is not so sure. Well, it does make you look at bricks in a different way,' she muses. 'Normally you don't notice them. And it makes you think about shapes and materials, and how important they are in life. Anyway, paintings are made of the same stuff that we coat walls with, and that doesn't stop them being art.'*

*Philip is unimpressed. He goes off, muttering darkly about the stupidity of the world in general and sisters in particular.*

*So, can a simple arrangement of bricks really be art or is the idea ridiculous?*

- **What makes one piece of art better than another?**
- **What is *good* art?**
- **Can anything be seen as 'art'?**