

Subconscious Questionnaire for Adults

The following are to be answered without the person knowing the information in the interpretive key. The interpretive key to the answers is in the box underneath the questions. Don't read the key until you've answered the questions yourself.

1. What is your favorite color? _____ Give five adjectives to describe that color:
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

2. What is your favorite animal? _____ Give five adjectives to describe that animal:
: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

3. Name your favorite body of water – either a type of body of water or a specific body of water (e.g., "lake," "pond," "river," "Lake Erie," "the Dead Sea," etc.): _____. Give five adjectives to describe that body of water: : _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

4. Imagine yourself in a white room that is totally empty but for a white chair which faces a window. Give five adjectives to describe what you feel about being in that room and what you feel at looking at what's outside the window, whatever it may be: : _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

The interpretive key to the above questions. Don't read this key until questions have been answered:

The words chosen to describe one's favorite color are said to be words one would use to describe oneself. The words chosen to describe one's favorite animals are said to be words the person thinks *others* would use to describe him, that would describe his public persona. The words chosen to describe one's favorite body of water are said to be words one would use to describe one's *feelings* toward sex. The words chosen to describe one's feelings about being in the white room are said to be words one'd use to describe one's *feelings* toward death.

For Couples: Questions To Build Intimacy

Psychological studies have shown that two people who discuss these three sets of questions together and then gaze into each others' eyes develop a strong sense of intimacy

Set I

1. Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest?
2. Would you like to be famous? In what way?
3. Before making a telephone call, do you ever rehearse what you are going to say? Why?
4. What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?
5. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?
6. If you were able to live to the age of 90 and retain either the mind or body of a 30-year-old for the last 60 years of your life, which would you want?
7. Do you have a secret hunch about how you will die?
8. Name three things you and your partner appear to have in common.
9. For what in your life do you feel most grateful?
10. If you could change anything about the way you were raised, what would it be?
11. Take four minutes and tell your partner your life story in as much detail as possible.
12. If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one quality or ability, what would it be?

Set II

13. If a crystal ball could tell you the truth about yourself, your life, the future or anything else, what would you want to know?
14. Is there something that you've dreamed of doing for a long time? Why haven't you done it?
15. What is the greatest accomplishment of your life?
16. What do you value most in a friendship?

17. What is your most treasured memory?
18. What is your most terrible memory?
19. If you knew that in one year you would die suddenly, would you change anything about the way you are now living? Why?
20. What does friendship mean to you?
21. What roles do love and affection play in your life?
22. Alternate sharing something you consider a positive characteristic of your partner. Share a total of five items.
23. How close and warm is your family? Do you feel your childhood was happier than most other people's?
24. How do you feel about your relationship with your mother?

Set III

25. Make three true "we" statements each. For instance, "We are both in this room feeling ..."
26. Complete this sentence: "I wish I had someone with whom I could share ..."
27. If you were going to become a close friend with your partner, please share what would be important for him or her to know.
28. Tell your partner what you like about them; be very honest this time, saying things that you might not say to someone you've just met.
29. Share with your partner an embarrassing moment in your life.
30. When did you last cry in front of another person? By yourself?
31. Tell your partner something that you like about them already.
32. What, if anything, is too serious to be joked about?
33. If you were to die this evening with no opportunity to communicate with anyone, what would you most regret not having told someone? Why haven't you told them yet?

34. Your house, containing everything you own, catches fire. After saving your loved ones and pets, you have time to safely make a final dash to save any one item. What would it be? Why?

35. Of all the people in your family, whose death would you find most disturbing? Why?

36. Share a personal problem and ask your partner's advice on how he or she might handle it. Also, ask your partner to reflect back to you how you seem to be feeling about the problem you have chosen.

Now gaze into each others' eyes for four minutes.

Questions for Discussion For Everyone

The (Combined) Proust Questionnaire

Your favorite virtue
Your favorite qualities in a man.
Your favorite qualities in a woman.
Your chief characteristic
What you appreciate the most in your friends
Your main fault
Your favourite occupation.
Your idea of happiness
Your idea of misery.
If not yourself, who would you be?
Where would you like to live?
Your favourite colour and flower.
The flower that I like.
My favorite bird.
Your favorite prose authors.
Your favorite poets.
Your favorite heroes in fiction.
Your favorite heroines in fiction.
Your favorite composers.
My favorite painters.
Your heroes in real life.
Your favorite heroines in real life.
What characters in history do you most dislike.
Your heroines in World history
Your favorite food and drink.
Your favorite names.
What I hate the most.
World history characters I hate the most
The military event I admire the most
The reform I admire the most
The natural talent I'd like to be gifted with
How I wish to die

What is your present state of mind.
For what fault have you most toleration?
Your favorite motto.

James Lipton's "Inside the Actors Studio" Questions

1. What is your favorite word?
2. What is your least favorite word?
3. What turns you on?
4. What turns you off?
5. What sound or noise do you love?
6. What sound or noise do you hate?
7. What is your favorite curse word?
8. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?
9. What profession would you not like to do?
10. If heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the pearly gates?

Other Questions

If you were to be granted one selfish, material wish, what would it be? (“world peace,” “end to violence,” “for all to recognize Christ as King,” and other global, non-material answers don’t count; the answer must be something you can personally possess. “Money” doesn’t count, either, nor does anything of a certain value that you’d sell; what you wish for you must keep.)

If you could spend a whole evening alone hanging out with anyone in the world who is currently alive and whom you don’t already know, whom would you select?

If you could spend a whole evening alone with anyone in History who/Who is not in the Bible, whom would you choose and why?

If you could spend a whole evening alone with anyone in the Bible other than Jesus and Mary, whom would you choose and why?

If you could physically transport yourself to any place in the world at this moment and stay there for one week, where would you go and why? Whom, if anyone, would you take with you?

If you could have lived through any war in History, without actually fighting in it, which would it be?

If you could change one of your physical characteristics, what would you change?

If you could change one thing about your childhood, what would it be?

If you could have a vacation home anywhere in the world, where would it be and what would the house be like?

If you could suddenly possess an extraordinary talent in one of the arts, what would you like it to be?

If you could be instantly fluent in one language that you don’t already speak, which would it be?

If you could own only one single object (not a TV, radio, stereo, or communications device) that could fit into a breadbox – something you had to keep and could never sell – what would it be? (don’t count religious items)

If you could have a starring role in any movie already made, which role and which movie would you choose? Why?

If someone were to make a movie of your life, who do you think would truly play you best? Who do you wish others would choose to play you? What would the title of the film be? Who would play the others in your life?

If you could go back and relive one year of your life, knowing what you know now and having the ability to change the past, which year would you return to and why?

If you had to relive any one year of your life but were unable to change anything about it, which year would you relive?

If you were to be painted or sculpted by any artist in History, whom would you choose, what would the pose be like, what would you be wearing, what objects would be shown with you, etc.?

If you were stranded forever on a desert island and could have only three books to read, which would you choose?

If you were Pope, what three things would you change first, if you'd change anything?

If you could personally witness one non-Biblical event in History, which event would you choose?

If you could personally witness one Biblical event in History, which even would you choose?

If your parents were famous people from any time in History, which people would you want them to be?

If you could own one painting or sculpture, but couldn't sell it, which painting would you own?

If you could have chosen a first name, other than the one you have, which name would you choose?

If you could play any musical instrument brilliantly, which would you choose?

What is the best surprise you've ever received?

What is your very earliest memory?

If you had \$100 to buy a present (or presents) for the person to your immediate right, what would you buy them?

If you could keep only one article of clothing that you currently own, and the rest would be thrown out, what would you keep?

Divide your life up into five or ten year chunks. What object most aptly symbolizes each of those chunks?

If you had to lose one of your five senses, which would you give up? If you could keep only one of your five senses, which would you keep?

If you were to be recognized by posterity for any one thing, what would you like to be known for?

If you had to move permanently to a different place, and all those you love would come with you, where would you move?

What was the most terrifying moment of your life?

Can you impersonate anyone? If so, care to share a little?

What is the best advice you've ever been given in your life? Who gave it?

Do you believe everything happens for a reason?

If you could have one street named after you, where would it be and what would be its exact name?

If you could have one meal from your past exactly as it was, which meal would you repeat?

If you had to actually live a lifetime during one period of time in the past, which time period would you choose? Would your answer be different if you only had to spend a month during that time period?

If you could have a soundtrack to your life, name two songs for each decade (or 5 years, or whatever relevant periods) of your life such that one song in each decade characterizes the zeitgeist (not a song you necessarily like), and the second song for each decade characterizes you, your reactions, and your thoughts during that decade (the songs you choose don't need to have been composed during the decades in question).

If you could be blessed with one God-given preternatural/supernatural ability, which would you choose?

What are your top pet peeves when it comes to things other people do? What are your main pet peeves when it comes to the natural world or the world of objects?

Which Catholic Saint do you not *admire* the most (necessarily), but *relate to* the most?

What would the person to your immediate right say is your best quality? What do you think is your best quality?

If you had to have a dinner party for six, what would you serve and how?

Do you believe in fate?

If you could invite to dinner six people from History, but who are not mentioned in the Bible, whom would you invite?

If you could invite to dinner six people from the Bible, whom would you invite?

If you were invited to join one musical group, which group would you want to join and what would you play?

Would you rather win a Nobel, Pulitzer, Oscar, or Grammy? Or is there another prize you'd rather win than any of these?

If you had to sum up the meaning of life in one sentence, how would you do so?

Have you ever experienced an incredible coincidence or synchronicity?

If you could enact or eradicate three laws in your country, which would you choose? If you could repeal three laws in your country, which would you choose?

How have your political beliefs changed over time? Why did they change?

If you were to ever be canonized as a Saint, what customs would you want associated with your Feast Day? What symbols would you like to be associated with you in art? On what date would you like your Feast Day to be celebrated?

If you could magically wish yourself into a new profession and be successful at it, what profession would you choose and why?

What one person that you know, but who is not your parent, has had the greatest impact on the way you think about the world?

Do you have different groups of friends and/or family that you prefer to keep separate? If so, why?

What person, living or dead, that you don't know personally, has had the greatest positive impact on the way you think about the world? (for the sake of this discussion, Jesus, the Apostles and Prophets, any Pope, or any Saint can't be an answer) What person, living or dead, that you don't know personally, has had the greatest negative impact on the way you think about the world?

What is one of History's mysteries that fascinates you the most?

Have you ever bullied someone? Have you ever been bullied? Have you ever defended someone from being bullied?

Do you have or have you had any nicknames? If not, do you wish you did? If so, what would you wish people called you?

What is the most beautiful-sounding word in the English language (that is beautiful-*sounding*, not beautiful in *meaning* necessarily)?

If you could un-invent one invention or bit of technology in the world so that it no longer existed, which invention would you eradicate? I.e., which invention or technology do you think has had the most negative effects on civilization?

What movie have you seen more times than any other?

Do you have an "art boyfriend" or "art girlfriend" – i.e., a figure from a painting, sculpture, or other art work you find especially attractive?

If you had to live life in one decade of the 20th century, which would you choose and why?

If you had a thousand dollars that you had to spend selfishly in one store, which store would you choose and what would you buy?

Which male movie stars and female movie stars are the most physically handsome and physically beautiful in your eyes? (this question isn't referring to true spiritual beauty, but surface, physical beauty)

What are the three things you value most in a friend?

If you could have a secret camera in any one room anyplace in the world, which room would you pick and why? (the question assumes barring any possibility of using such a camera for evil purposes, but only for curiosity's sake)

Have you ever been told you resemble someone famous? If so, who?

Do you have a dream car?

Do you have a dream house in mind? What is it like? Where is it or where would it be?

If you could ask God one single question and get a clear, unequivocal answer in a personal revelation, what would it be?

If you had to name the single most regrettable thing in your country's History, what would it be?

If you were an actor or actress and could star in a chaste romantic scene in a play with any one actor or actress, who would it be?

Describe the perfect date (or romantic evening with your spouse if you are married).

If you could eliminate one hereditary characteristic from your family, what would it be?

If you could be invisible for three hours, where would you go and what would you do?

If you were of the opposite sex (and unmarried, if you are married), which person of your present sex would you want to marry and why?

If you could change things to make life easier for those of your sex, what would you change? What would you change to make life easier for those of the opposite sex?

Do you think it is more difficult to be a man or a woman, or is being one as difficult as being the other?

If you had to be married to some Historical person, whom would you marry?

Which five musicians would you put together as "the ultimate band"?

If the world of fashion were to change at the snap of your fingers, what would people be wearing? Is there a fashion period you like best (e.g., Edwardian, 1950s, medieval, etc.)?

Is there something you regret not having said to someone? Is it too late to tell them now?

What one charity or cause do you wish you had money to give to?

If you had to die in one of History's disasters, which one would you pick? At least, which do you find most interesting?

Do you moo at cows and/or neigh at horses and/or bleat at sheep, etc., when you're driving down the road and see them?

If you could be King (or Queen) of a country, which country would you choose?

What were three of the great "crossroads" of your life in which decisions you made radically affected what your life is like today? Are you glad about the decisions you made at those times? How do you think things would be different now if you'd made different decisions then?

If you were a namedropper, which three names would you love to be able to drop?

What is the one gadget you can't live without (not counting any used only for your work)?

If you could give an award to someone, what award would you give and to whom?

If you could erase any one murder from History, which would you choose?

If you could be married anywhere in the world, where would the wedding take place, what would it be like, etc.? Assume that your friends and family could attend no matter where you choose. (if you're married, answer as if you were still planning your wedding)

If you could ensure three personality traits in your children, which would you choose?

If you were to select one manmade object that best represents your personality, which would you choose and why?

Describe how you'd like your funeral and/or wake to be.

What is your single worst temporal fear (i.e., fears aside from religious concerns such as being damned, having unsaved loved ones, etc.)?

What TV show character is most like you? Which one do you wish you were more like?

If you had to be on a game show, which one would you choose?

If you were to make a personal coat of arms, what sorts of symbols and colors would be on it?

What is the worst book you've ever read?

If practical concerns were not an issue (e.g. vet costs, daily care, enough space, etc.), which animal would you like to have for a pet and what would you name it?

Are there any songs you find "haunting"? What are they and what do you think of when you hear them?

What, in your opinion, was the worst time period in History (the present time doesn't count as "History")?

Is there something that most people have done that you haven't done?

Is there a topic could you give a half-hour talk on without notes or preparation?

If you could own a town and be its mayor, what would you name it and what would it be like?

What were some of your favorite childhood toys?

If you had to live out of one large suitcase, what -- aside from clothes and basic toiletries -- would be in that suitcase?

Whom would you cast to play the people you're with right now if a movie were made of their lives?

If you could be editor of any magazine or newspaper in the world, which would you choose and why?

What one movie title (of a movie that already exists) would best fit a movie made about your life?

What is your favorite fairy tale?

If you could eat in only one restaurant for the rest of your life, and price and transportation were no object, which restaurant would you choose?

If you could have one type of flower delivered to you once a week for the rest of your life, which flower would you choose?

What are your two favorite holidays and why?

If you were to run a school, what would it be like? What subjects would be covered and when?

What is the funniest joke you ever heard?

If you were to have a friend or family member redecorate your house, whom would you choose to do the deed?

If you had to rename each of the people you are with right now, what would you name them?

What one single politician in your country do you most wish would never hold office again?

If you could change two of your bad habits in the blink of an eye, which would you change?

Which musical instrument(s) best “sound(s) like” your personality?

Do you have any favorite movie scenes?

What two characteristics of the opposite sex would you change if you could? If you are married or betrothed, how do you think your mate would answer?

Is there a piece of music that literally gives you chills or goosebumps? That makes you cry? That makes you feel happy?

What two characteristics of your sex (i.e., “males” or “females”) would you change if you could? If you are married or betrothed, how do you think your mate would answer?

Which two of the Seven Deadly Sins are you most prone to? (pride, avarice, lust, wrath, gluttony, envy, sloth)

Which Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost do you believe you’ve been given? (Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord)

If you are married, what advice would you give to newly-wed couples just starting their lives together? If you are not married, what, if anything, scares you most about marriage?

What 5 adjectives first come to mind when you think of yourself?

Do you have a favorite teacher? What was he or she like?

If you could have a 1 hour conversation with one person in the world whom you don’t know personally, and that conversation would change his or her mindset and convince him

of something you believe, whom would you talk to and what would want to convince him/her of?

What one, single lie has caused the most damage in the world?

Do songs get “stuck” in your head often? If so, are there any in particular that seem to torment you?

If Heaven could be described in temporal terms and in terms of the senses, what do you imagine it would look like, sound like, taste like, smell like, and feel like?

What is your single most favorite specific Christmas memory? (i.e., “being with family” won’t count; it has to be more along the lines of “That one time when...”)

What is the worst nightmare you’ve ever had?

Do you have any recurring dreams or recurring dream themes?

If you could have a servant who performed two tasks only, what two things would that servant do?

If you could choose the very last thing you will see before death, what would you choose?

What is the very worst meal you’ve ever eaten?

What is the strangest thing you’ve ever eaten?

What job would you most hate having to do for a living?

If you could solve one unsolved crime, which would you choose?

If you had exactly one year to live, what, if anything, would you do differently?

If you had one hour to live, how would you spend that hour?

If you could recover one physical thing you’ve lost in your lifetime, what would you wish to find?

If you were given a ship, what would you name it?

What advertising slogan best describes you?

If, aside from your family and very close friends, everyone of one sex were to out of your life so that only males remained or only females remained, which sex would you prefer to deal with and why?

If you could change the ending to any one movie, which movie's ending would you change and how would it be different?

If you could change the view from your house, what would you see?

If you could go back in time and change the effects of the acts of one Historical person, which person's acts would you change?

What are your top three favorite Christmas carols?

What are your top three favorite hymns?

What frightened you as a child? If you are a child, what frightens you now?

What is the weirdest thing you ever saw in real life (as opposed to in a movie, video, or dream)?

Do you remember the very first dream you ever had? If so, how old were you when you had it and what happened in it?

What is the nicest thing anyone's ever said to you?

What is the one single thing you most wish you knew as a teenager, but were totally clueless about then? (for the sake of this discussion, exclude religious dogma when answering)

You've just won an Academy Award: what is your acceptance speech like?

Is there someone in your life, right now, who needs something from you or who'd benefit from some of your time and attention? Are you serving that person? If not, why not? If so, how does that make you feel?

Assume you are single if you're not: which TV character would you marry if you had to marry a TV character?

If you could, for one week, visit the world, fictional or not, of some movie or book, which movie or book would you like to "crawl into"?

Which ethnic group, other than your own, most interests you and why?

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? (If you are a child, what do you want to be when you grow up?)

Have you ever met anyone you instantly either really liked or really disliked – and then came to have the opposite feelings about? What was it about your initial encounter with that person that made you either like or dislike him? What happened to change your feelings about him?

Have you had any apparently preternatural or supernatural experiences (barring those common to all Christians, such as the infusion of the theological virtues, grace received in the Sacraments, etc. You know what this question is asking: any strange experiences that aren't easily explained by science)?

What are some things you'd like to learn to do? What's stopping you?

What are some of your favorite sounds? What are some of your least favorite sounds?

What are some of your favorite smells? What do they remind you of? Is there any smell in particular that evokes a flood of memories?

If you had to live perpetually in one Season (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter), which would you choose? Which would be the last that you'd choose?

When was the last time you performed a "random act of kindness"?

If you lived in Oz, would you be Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, or the Cowardly Lion?

If you had the opportunity to board a space ship and explore space for 1 year, would you go? What about 10 years?

What do you consider to be the stupidest fad that was popular in your lifetime? Is there a fad you got into but later considered ridiculous?

What are the top three things on your "bucket list" – the mental list of things you want to do before you die?

If you were to write your autobiography, what title would you give it?

If you could earn \$10,000 by dressing, for one year, like a total 1960s flower child – and you couldn't tell anyone why you were dressed that way – would you?

What is the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you (if the very most embarrassing thing that's happened to you would be too indelicate to relate in present company, choose another incident. This isn't "Truth or Dare," after all, but conversation)

Who was the first person you knew in real life whom you had a crush on? Who was the first celebrity you had a crush on?

Have you ever mutilated a song's lyrics only to be later astounded that you've been singing the wrong words for years? If so, how'd you mess up?

What, if anything, do you daydream about?

Make the silliest face you possibly can.

If someone from a foreign country were to visit your city for one day, and you were in charge of entertaining him, how would you do so? Where would you take him? What would you show him?

What do you think the worst things are about the lives of those of the opposite sex? What do you think are the best things about their lives?

When you were in High School, which "Breakfast Club" character most fit you: the Athlete, the Princess, the Brain, the Basket Case, or the Criminal? What do you think each of "The Breakfast Club" characters would've been up to fifteen years later? How would they likely have turned out?

If you could commission a great painter to make a painting for you personally, what would you want him to paint?

While usually knowledge and wisdom come slowly, cumulatively, sometimes it seems that there are sudden insights into things, moments when "the light goes on" and we see things clearly that we hadn't seen before – "epiphanies" of sorts. What moments have there been like that in your life? What triggered them, if you know?

What is the scariest, supposedly true story you've ever heard?

What famous people have you met?

Have you ever been catcalled in the streets? Have you ever catcalled someone else?

Have you ever been in a physical fight? If so, how many times? What caused them? How'd it all turn out?

If you had to step into someone's shoes and live as him or her for one day, whom would you choose?

What physical and mental characteristics do you believe you've inherited from your Mom? Which do you believe you've inherited from your Dad? Which do you think you've handed down to your children, if you have any? Which do you think your spouse has handed down to your children?

If you had a new baby boy (or new little brother, if you are a child), what would you want to name him? What about a baby girl (or new little sister)?

What do you wish others understood better about you?

Who were/are your favorite teachers? What were/are they like?

What is your favorite Old Testament Bible story?

Do you believe in love at first sight?

What do you want written on your tombstone?

What are the best ways for others to really make you feel appreciated and loved?

Some people think there are five basic "Love Languages" – five basic ways to express the feeling of love in a romantic relationship – and that in each person, one of these languages predominates. When a person with "Love Language X" is married to a person whose "Love Language" is Y, they can be at cross-purposes, engaging in projection by giving the other not what the *other* truly needs and wants, but what would make they, themselves, happy. The five "Love Languages" are: 1) Physical touch; 2) Gifts; 3) Words of Affirmation; 4) Quality Time; and 5) Acts of Service. Learning what your "Love Language" is and what your spouse or boy/girlfriend's "Love Language" is allows you to help each other get what you both truly need. So, what *is* your "Love Language"? What does your spouse or boy/girlfriend seem to *think* your "Love Language" is? What is your spouse or boy/girlfriend's "Love Language"? How can each of you help the other feel valued and loved by speaking his or her "Love Language" as opposed to thinking that what works for *you* also works for your beloved?

When was the last time you had a good belly laugh? And what was so danged funny?

What is one of the hardest things you've ever had to do?

If you were a guest on a talk show, what would you want your walk-on song to be?

Do you have any pleasures you consider “guilty pleasures” – things you think you “shouldn’t” enjoy, but just do?

Can you do any silly tricks or weird things that most other people can’t do?

Where do you see yourself in ten years? What do you think your life will be like? Do you like what you see? If not, what can be changed to avoid that eventuality? If so, what can you do to bring a change about – and what can others do to help you?

What animal are you most like? How do you think the others present would answer that question about you?

When was the last time you cried?

If you could be a master of one sport, which would you choose?

What are your favorite games?

If you had to move and could take all of your family with you, where would you move and why?

What phenomenon of the natural world do you want to see the most (e.g., the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, the Aurora Borealis, etc.)

What sort of natural environment do you like best: mountains, desert, seaside, forest, jungle, etc.?

If you could re-cast movies, what roles do you think should be given to whom? What would be some of the worst casting you can think of? How would you re-cast remakes of old movies using today’s actors and actresses?

How was your day today? What sort of mood predominated and why? Did you learn anything new? Meet anyone new? See or hear something funny? Anything that worried or bothered you?

What is a present-day fad that most annoys you?

What question would you put here for others to answer?

Other Means to Incite Family Conversation

Bring a newspaper, an iPhone or tablet to the table and read some of the news headlines – not just from the front page, but from the culture section. Then turn off any electronics and talk about what’s going on in the news, ask what your kids think, what most of their friends think, etc.

For older kids: Have a family movie night in which the movie you watch involves controversial things and situations they might be faced with all too soon. Talk about how to think about these issues, how to cope with those situations when they arise, etc. (Don’t mistake ignorance for innocence!)

Talk about how you would change the endings to various movies or TV series (or give endings to TV series that didn’t really have “final episodes”?). E.g., how would you shoot a finale to “Keeping Up Appearances”?

Talk about how things would have turned out differently if _____ in History had happened differently. E.g., “What would the world be like if Hitler had won the war?”

Ask your kids to imagine being marooned on an island with 100 other people. What would be the things they’d have to do in order to survive? How would they organize themselves? Who, if anyone, would rule? How would things work?

Conduct mock court trials, with one person (preferably a parent) acting as Judge, two people acting as attorneys, and the others as jurors. The cases could be ones in the news, historic cases, made up cases, etc., or could involve something that’s happened in your family -- for ex., one child got into trouble for something. How would the “lawyers” prosecute or defend him?

Have debates about various topics, using relatively formalized debate rules – e.g., giving each side a certain amount of time to make their case, allowing set amounts of time for rebuttals, etc., and then judging the winner. Those debating don’t have to agree with the position they’re taking; the point is to develop the ability to reason, use rhetoric, understand how others think, be tolerant when hearing others’ opinions, etc.

Have your children make up their own “Just So” stories, such as a story explaining how the giraffe got such a long neck, or the elephant his long nose, etc.

Role play by assuming the character of someone the children know of (it could be an historic person, a movie star, a family member, etc.). Speak as that person, answer questions as that person, move and gesture as that person, and see if your kids can guess who you “are.” Have them do the same.