

# Critical Thinking- Pre-K to 2nd Teacher Guide



## What is Included

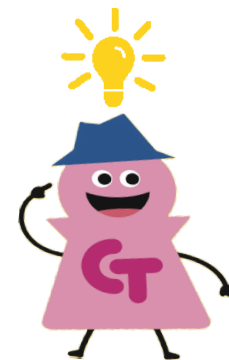
The purpose of this guide is to support teachers in empowering students to make positive choices even when faced with challenging situations. In this guide you will find: Connection Questions associated with the video, independent practice guidance, and extended learning opportunities. Each of these resources can be used independently or in conjunction with one another as time allows. For your planning purposes, please find the estimated time needed for each activity below.

### Viewing the Video

- Watch the video together with the students.

### Student Activities

- Connection Questions (before, during, and after the video) - 5-10 minutes.
- Fun Challenge, Student Activity, Drawing or Coloring Worksheet- 5-15 minutes.
- Extended Learning - 10 minutes.



## Connection Questions and Checks for Understanding

### Before the video 2-4 minutes

- Ask students: "What do you think Critical Thinking means?"

### During the video 3-5 minutes

- Pause the video periodically to incorporate Checks for Understanding (CFU).
- Ask students: "What does it mean to manage your emotions?"  
(Answers: Managing your emotions means being able to stay calm and in control of how you feel, even when you're upset, angry, or excited. It's about knowing how to express your feelings in a healthy way and making smart choices about how to react.)

### After the video

- Ask students: "What are the Steps in Critical Thinking?"  
(Answer: Ask questions, gather information, think about it, consider different ideas, make a decision, check your thinking.)
- "What role does the amygdala play in our brain?"  
(Answer: The amygdala is a part of your brain that helps you feel emotions, like happiness, fear, or anger. It's like a little alarm system that helps you react to things quickly when you're scared or excited, so it helps keep you safe!)
- "How can we calm our amygdala so that we can think critically?"  
(Answer: Take deep breaths, pause and relax, focus on something calming, count to 10, talk to someone.)

## Independent Practice

### Fun Challenge Worksheet

- Exciting introduction to the activities ahead.

### Drawing or Coloring Worksheet

- Students can express themselves and relax their minds.

### Student Activity Worksheet

- For grades 1st and 2nd.

## Extended Learning

### Read and Discuss

How is Critical Thinking demonstrated in the following books:

**Solutions for Cold Feet and Other Little Problems**

by Carey Sookocheff

**Try, Try Again, Two-Headed Monster!**

by Random House

**The Problem with Problems**

by Rachel Rooney

**How to Solve a Problem**

by Ashima Shiraishi

**Stuck**

by Oliver Jeffers

