

Needs vs. Wants

Materials: a set of cue cards or scrap paper, something to write with & a phone/tablet/computer to watch a video on!

- 01** Start by explaining that there is a difference between things that we **want**, and things that we **need**. For instance, we need food, but we may want ice cream!

Ask the question: *What kinds of things give us a happy life?*

- If this question is too broad, it could be simplified into categories: 1) Things for our body, 2) Things for our mind, 3) Things for our community.
 - Depending on the students grade level, ask them to write, draw or maybe transcribe their answers for them

- 02** After students have had a chance to brainstorm this question, see if they're able to sort their answers into two piles: Things that we **need** vs. things that we **want**

Depending how the sorting goes, ask some follow up questions:

- Does everybody need certain things?
- Are different people's needs different?
 - How?
 - Could we be happy without _____?

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03

Ask students to:

- Make a list of the **things or activities in their life that make them the most happy**.
- Then, circle all the things that cost money.
- Many things in life do cost money, but does spending more money on things really make us happier?
 - Have a discussion about the importance of things in life that don't cost any money (e.g. family, friends, nature, sunshine, quality time with people you love).

04

Tell students to imagine that they will have 60 seconds to take anything they want from a toy store.

After they have had a chance to visualize the experience, watch the

[Happiness Video](#)



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05

Re-watch the [Happiness Video](#) & pause as the characters are shopping and ask: What is Clementine doing?



06

After finishing the video, ask:

- Why do you think Clementine won?
 - *Some kids may not believe Clementine was happier than the kids who got a lot of stuff. If this debate emerges, direct kids with the following questions:*
- If you were in the video, what would be in your cart?
 - (This directs students to identify WHAT exactly they want or need, helping understand that the boys weren't happy because they didn't know or value what they had).
- If you got all of those things, which item do you think would make you the happiest? Why?