

# A QUICK NOTE TO TEACHERS:

Is it fair to say that you ask too many questions?

It has been said that teachers ask, on average, more than 300 questions a day. One particular study found that we ask between 6 to 12 times as many questions as our pupils\*.

But, is this right? Who should be asking the questions? How many is appropriate? And what sort of questions should they be?

The aim of this resource is to help you get some feedback from your class about the role of questions in your classroom. This PDF document is optimised (black and white, to save your pink ink!) for you to print and use in class. An additional Flash slideshow (colour), for use with Interactive Whiteboards is downloadable from [www.sparkyteaching.com/resources/](http://www.sparkyteaching.com/resources/)

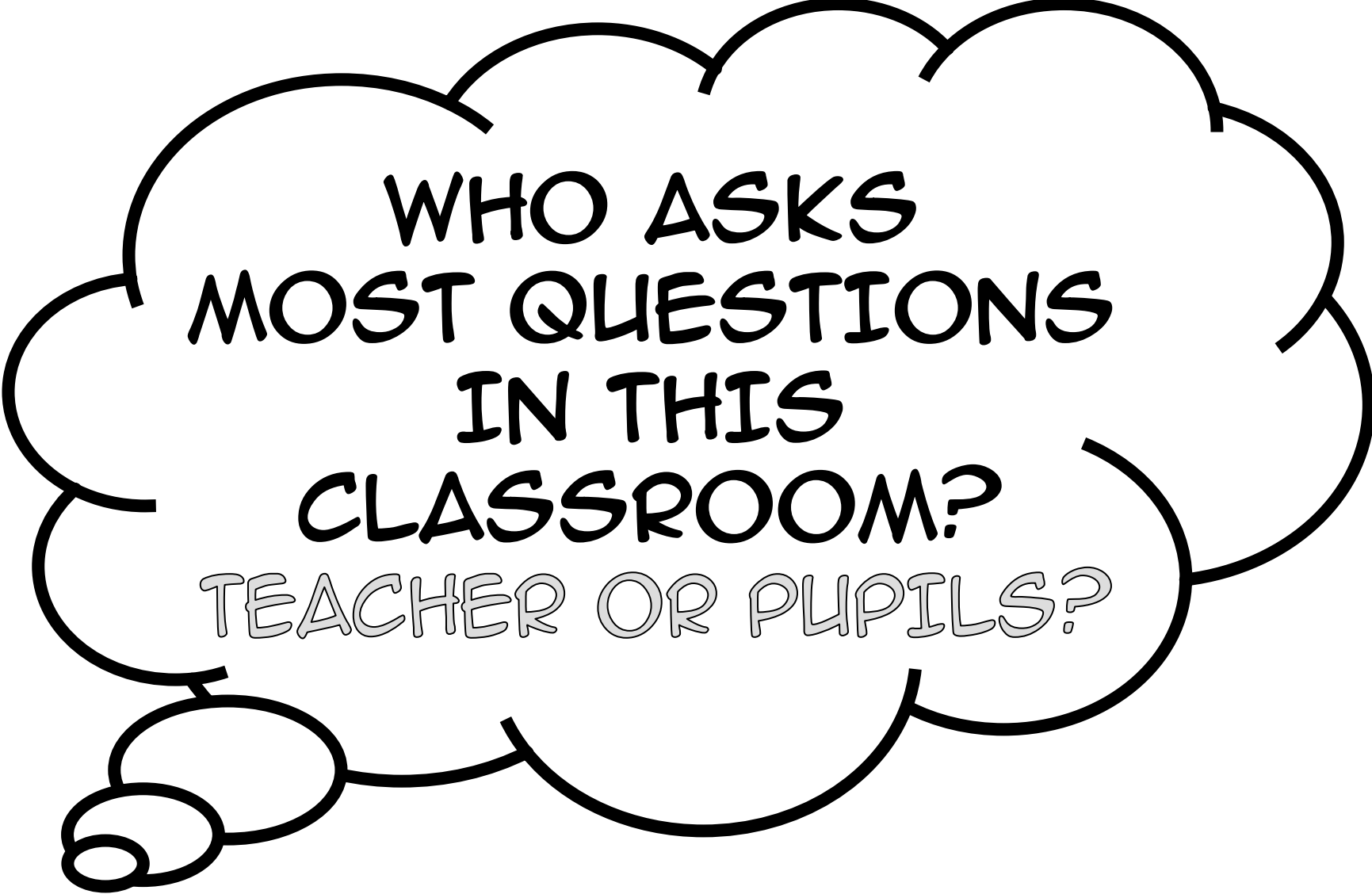
Answer these questions on your own before putting them to your class...

You may be surprised at the difference in answers!



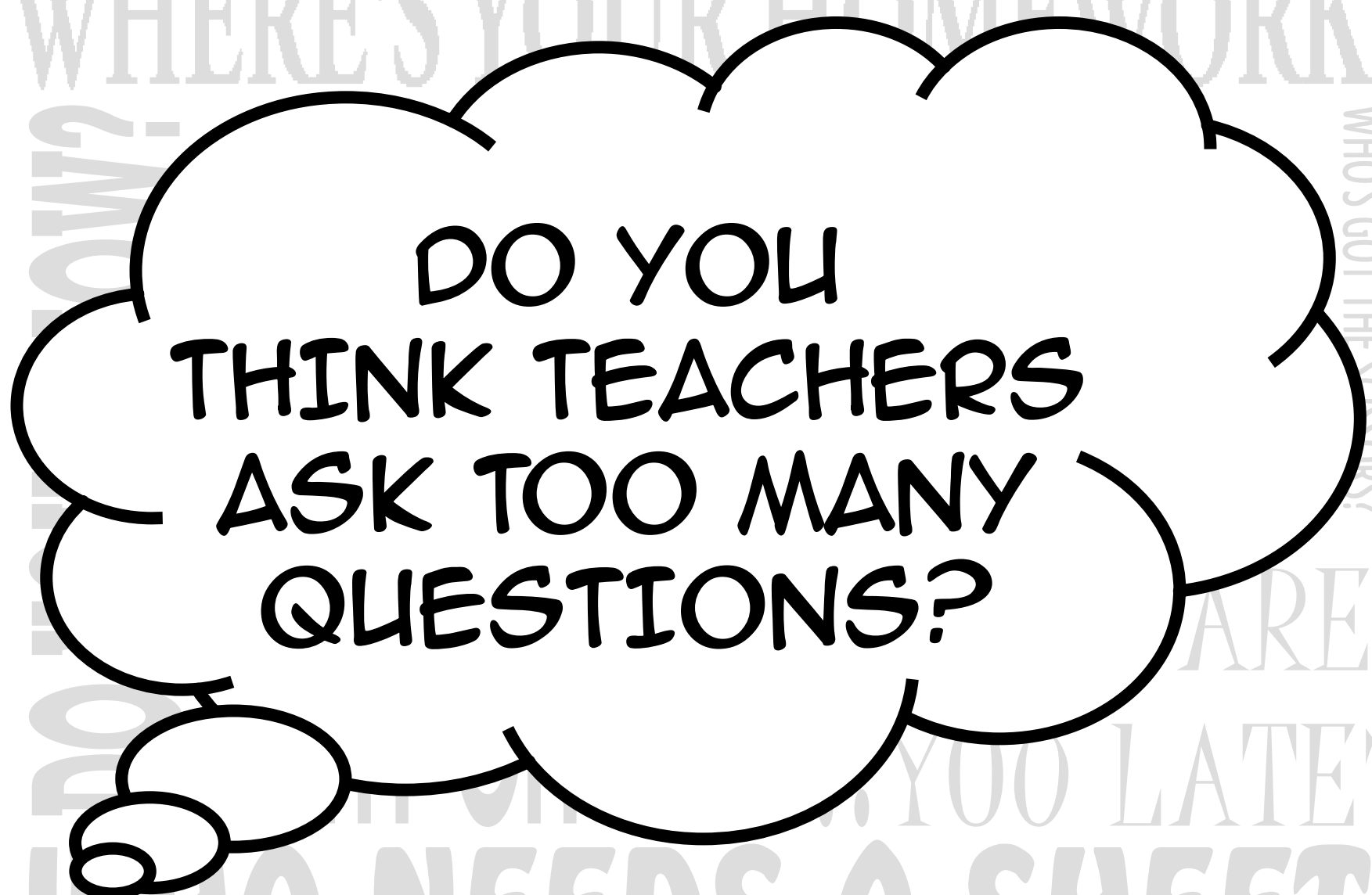
\* 'Classroom Assessment – a survey of current practice in Suffolk schools', Suffolk County Council (2000)

12 QUESTIONS  
ABOUT  
**QUESTIONS!**



**WHO ASKS  
MOST QUESTIONS  
IN THIS  
CLASSROOM?**

TEACHER OR PUPILS?



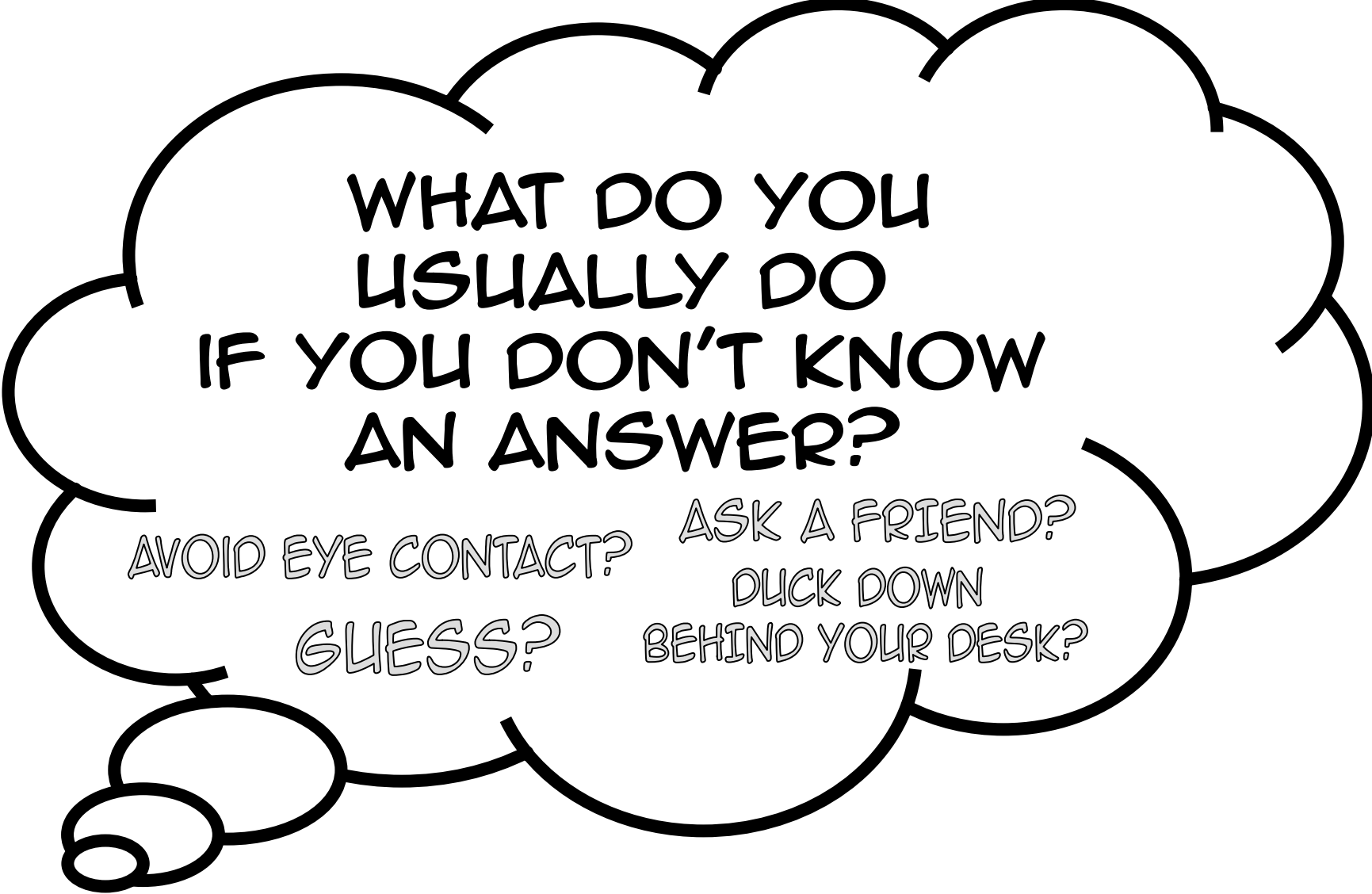
DO YOU  
THINK TEACHERS  
ASK TOO MANY  
QUESTIONS?

WHERE'S YOUR HOMEWORK?  
HOW?  
WHO'S GOT THE SCISSORS?  
ARE  
YOU LATE?  
WHO NEEDS A SHEET?



**WHO DO YOU  
THINK SHOULD  
ASK MOST  
QUESTIONS?**

WHY DO YOU  
THINK THIS?



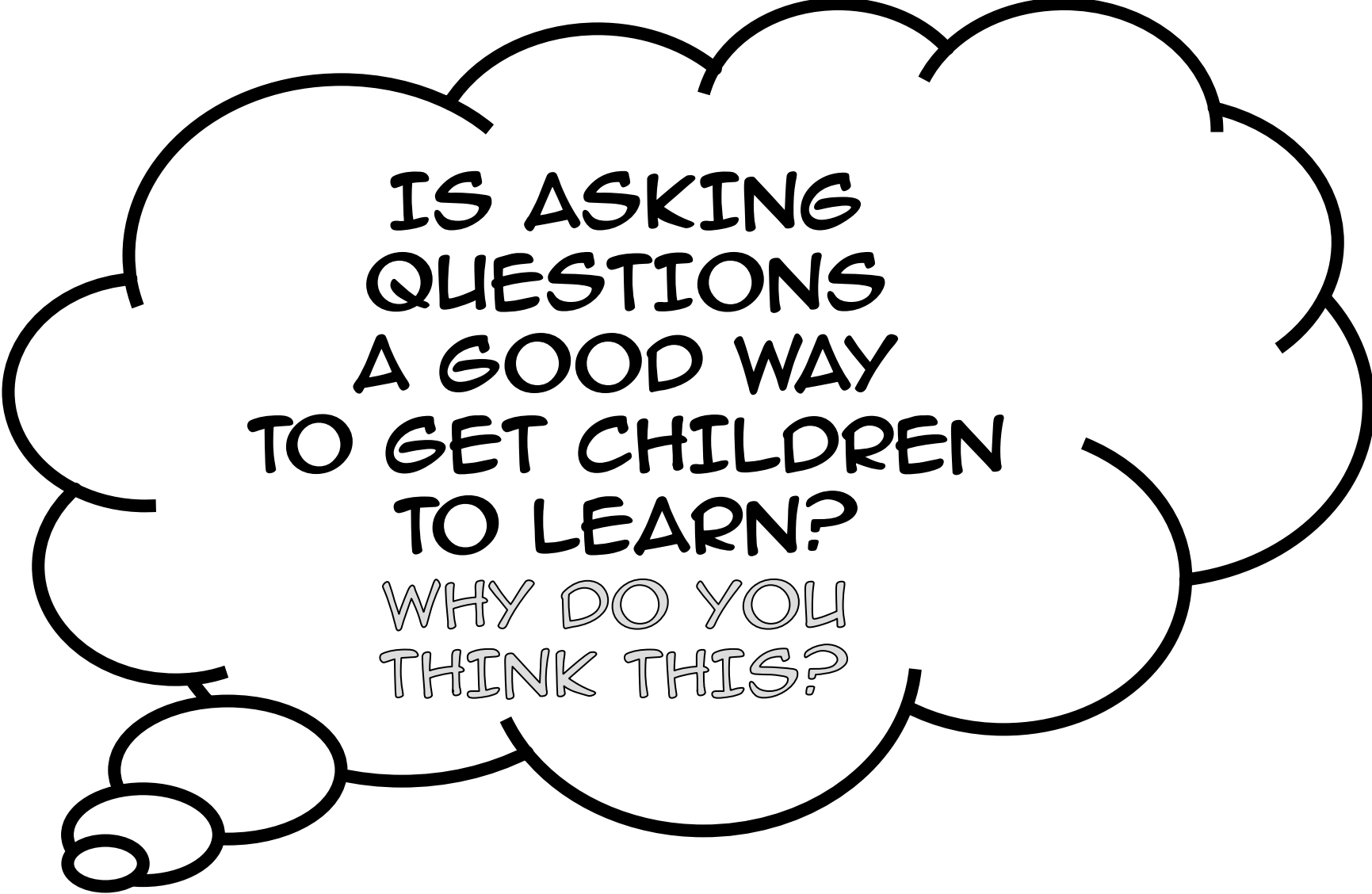
**WHAT DO YOU  
USUALLY DO  
IF YOU DON'T KNOW  
AN ANSWER?**

AVOID EYE CONTACT?

GUESS?

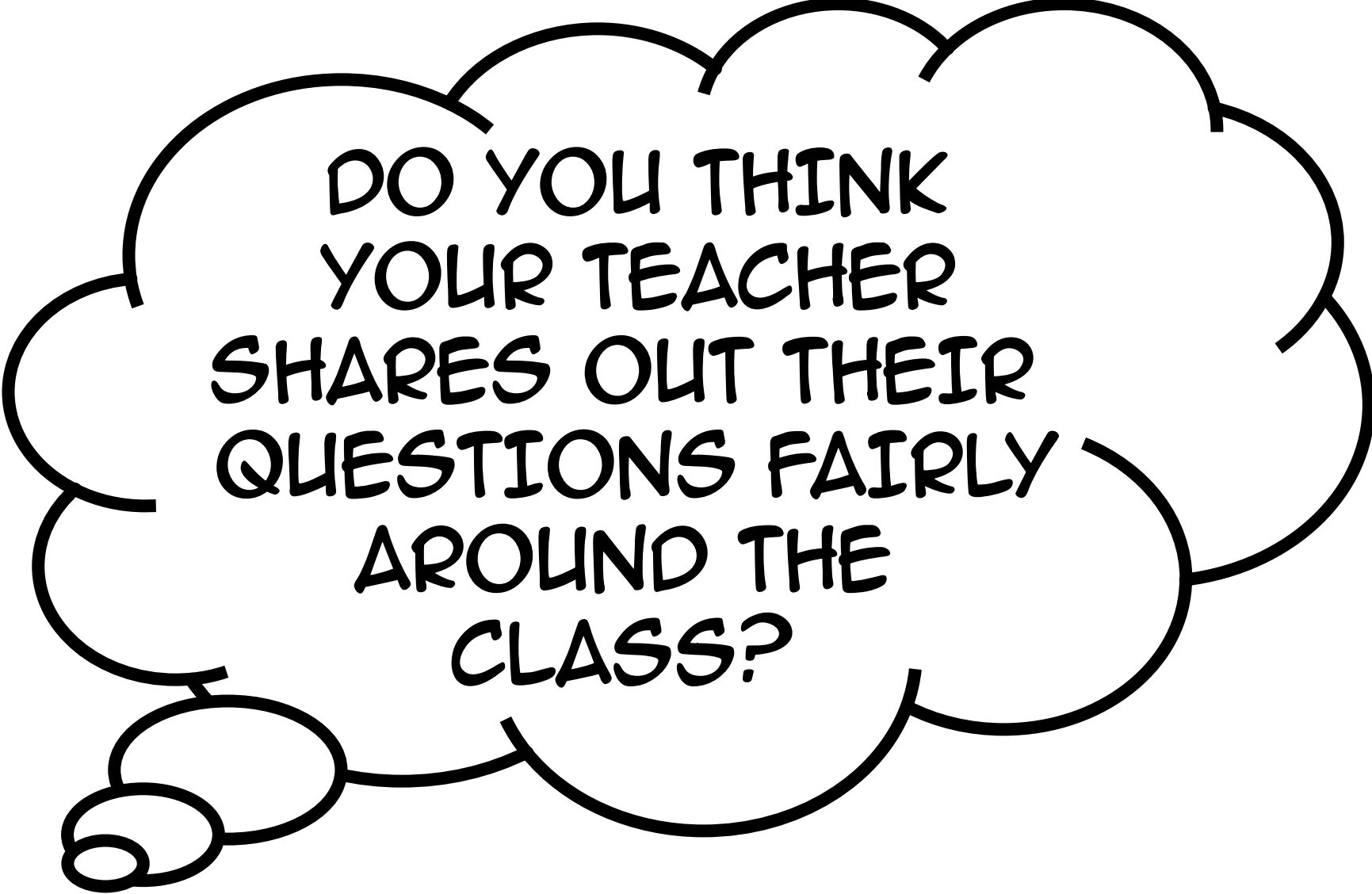
ASK A FRIEND?

DUCK DOWN  
BEHIND YOUR DESK?

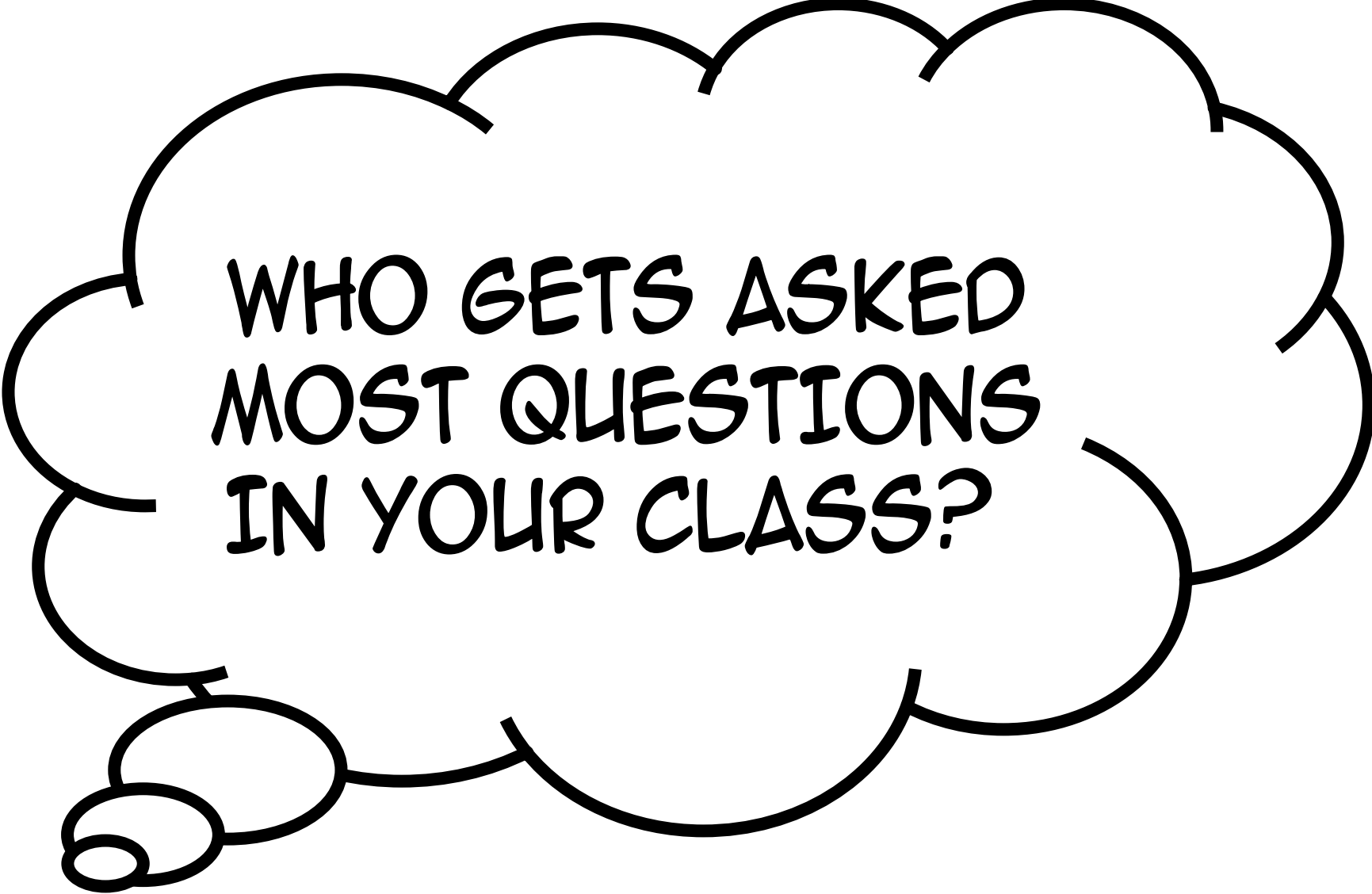


**IS ASKING  
QUESTIONS  
A GOOD WAY  
TO GET CHILDREN  
TO LEARN?**


WHY DO YOU  
THINK THIS?



DO YOU THINK  
YOUR TEACHER  
SHARES OUT THEIR  
QUESTIONS FAIRLY  
AROUND THE  
CLASS?



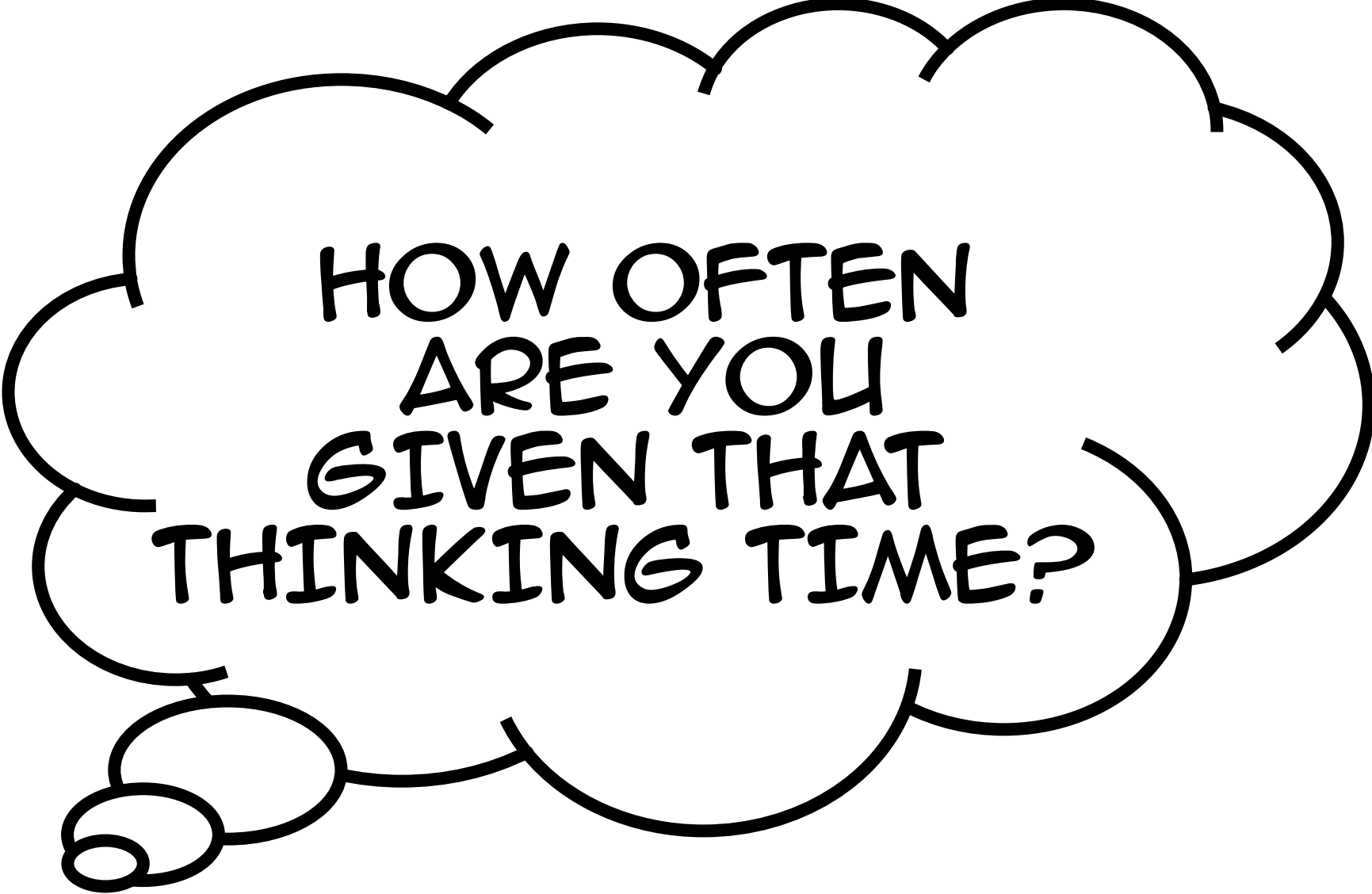
WHO GETS ASKED  
MOST QUESTIONS  
IN YOUR CLASS?

A hand-drawn thought bubble with a thick black outline. The bubble has several smaller circles connected to its bottom-left side, suggesting a trail of thought. The text inside is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within the bubble.

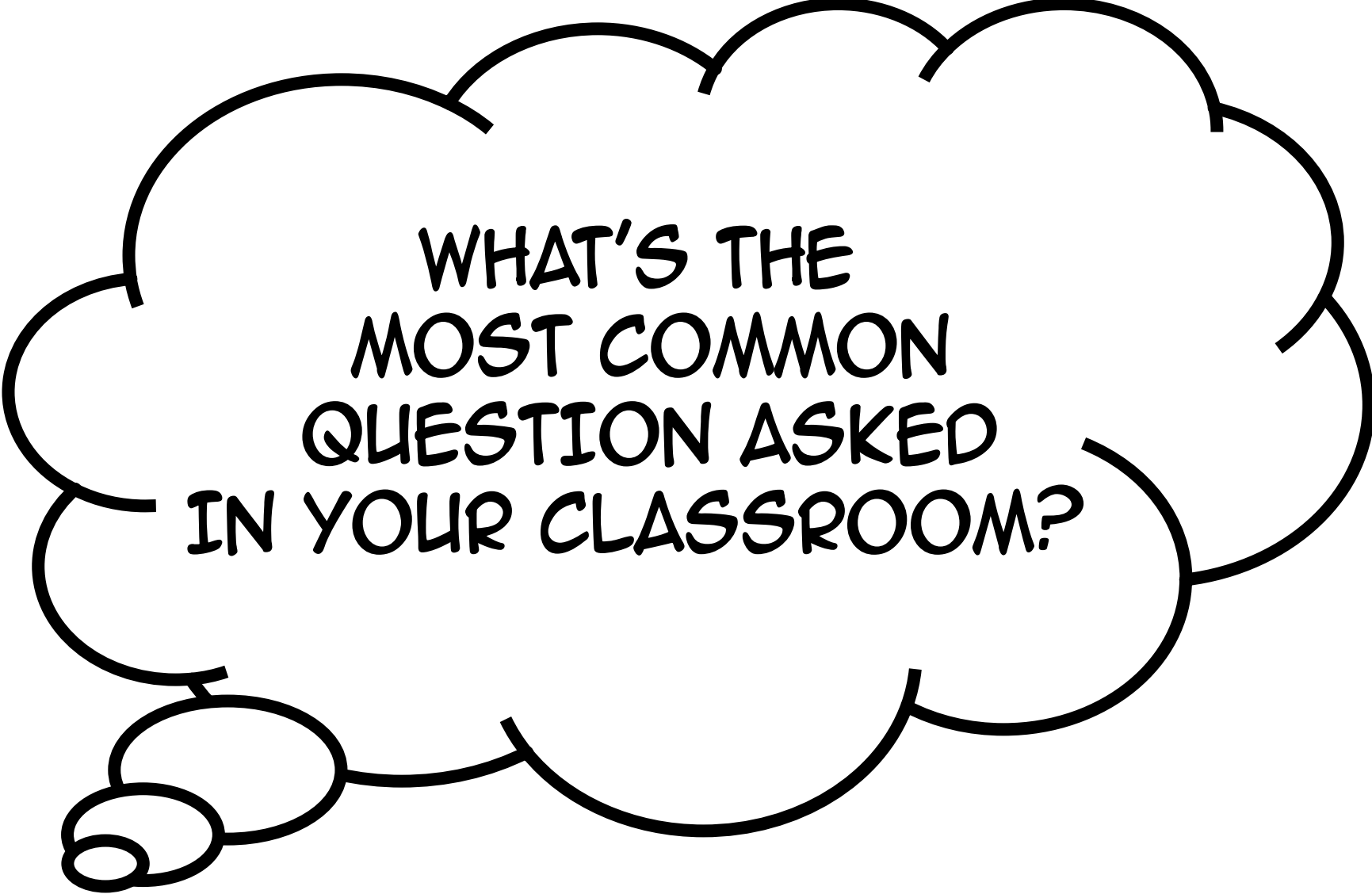
WHERE IS THE  
BEST PLACE  
TO SIT  
IF YOU DON'T  
WANT TO BE  
ASKED A QUESTION?



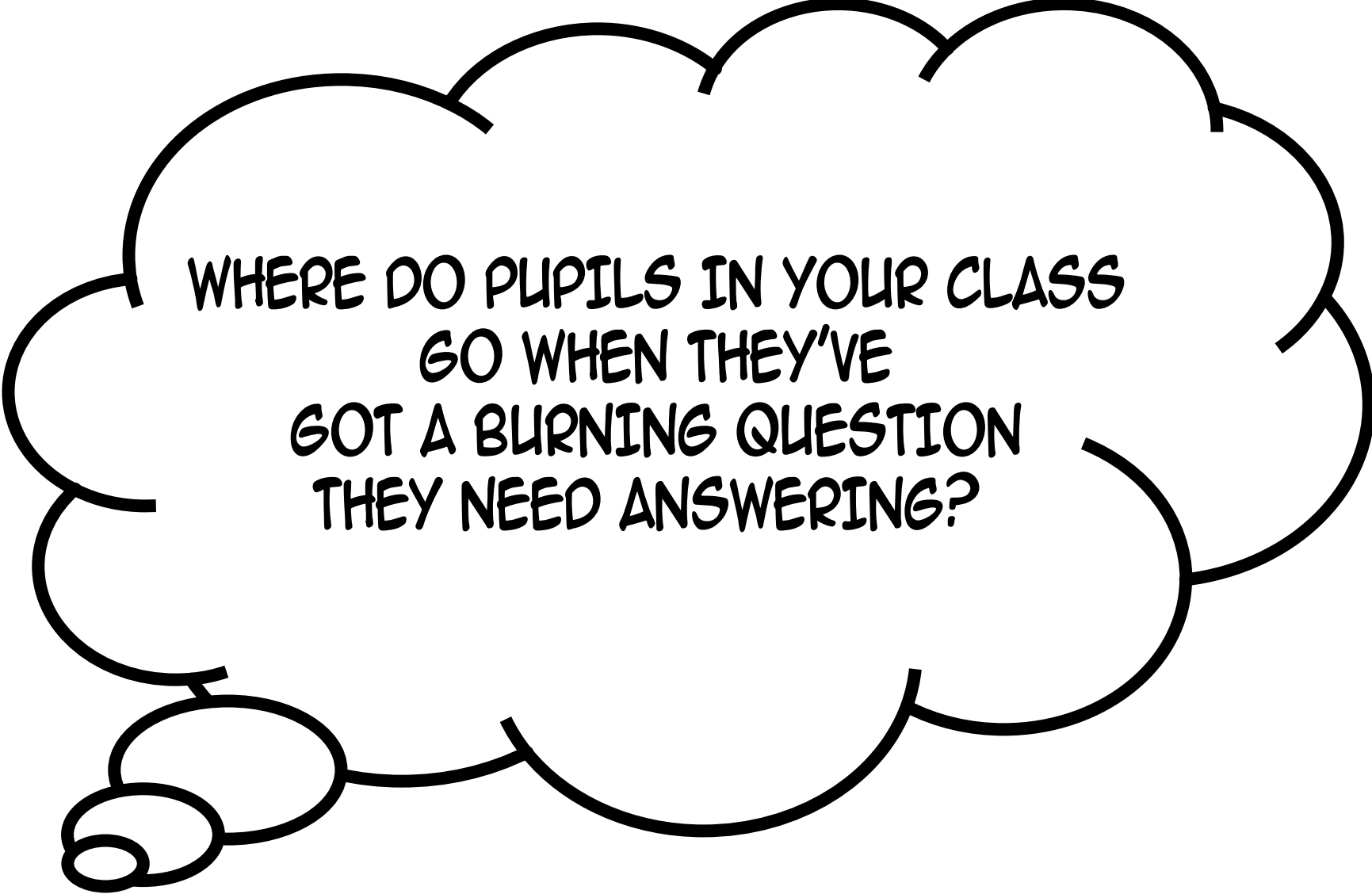
**HOW MUCH THINKING TIME  
SHOULD YOU BE GIVEN  
BEFORE ANSWERING  
A QUESTION?**



HOW OFTEN  
ARE YOU  
GIVEN THAT  
THINKING TIME?



WHAT'S THE  
MOST COMMON  
QUESTION ASKED  
IN YOUR CLASSROOM?



WHERE DO PUPILS IN YOUR CLASS  
GO WHEN THEY'VE  
GOT A BURNING QUESTION  
THEY NEED ANSWERING?