Elfie

Chapter IV, episode 1.

- Rat! Tat-tat! There's that knock again!
- Cindy runs to the door. She swings it wide open and rides on the door handle.
- Mr. Sprockett just stands there, looking down at her. "A door," He says to her, "is not a swing.
- He comes in the room. Brown suit. Brown shoes. Brown tie.
- He looks at us. We look at him.
- He doesn't say anything. We don't say anything.
- I hold my breath. What is he going to tell us? That the contest has been called off? That this is the end of school? That this is the end of everything?
- Finally, he speaks. "All right," he says, "who can tell me what a distinction is?"
- John says! It's like when we say that one thing is not another thing."
- "Can you give me an example?"
- Mr. Sprockett asks. Cindy's hand shoots up. "A door is not a swing," she says.
- Mr. Sprockett smiles! He actually smiles!
- As he turns to leave, he trips on the leg of the table with the homemade Play-Doh. The can of flour starts to fall over! Mr. Sprockett tries to grab it, but he just knocks it into the air! It overturns, and the flour falls all over Mr. Sprockett suit! He looks like he's been painting houses!
- Mr. Sprockett brushes the flour off his suit. After he has left, Cindy giggles. Mrs. Tripp says, "It was just an accident, and it's not nice to laugh when someone has an accident."
- "Yeah, Cindy," says Diana, "it wasn't funny."
- I say to myself, "It's not nice. It wasn't funny. Are those distinctions also? I'm so mixed up! I still don't really know what a distinction is!"

References: Lipman. (1988). *Elfie*. Montclair: Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children.

LIVEWORKSHEETS