



Activity

No-self: things are just the sum of their parts

The question is: what is a flower?

Take a flower in bloom into the classroom.

Alternatively, take several flowers, divide students into small groups and give each group a flower.

You will proceed to take the flower apart, piece by piece.

First take off the leaves (if there are any)

Then detach the stem. When we have a long thin green thing in our hands, can we call it a stem? If it is not attached to the rest of a plant, is it a stem? If not, what is it?

Begin to take off the petals slowly, one by one.

When we have a heap of petals, is that a flower? What is the relation between petals and a flower? Do they belong to the flower? That would mean the flower exists separately from the petals. Or are they the flower?

Then detach the pistil and the stamen. You are left with lots of pieces but the flower has disappeared. Is there a flower that remains somehow after disintegration? Is there an essence of flower? Discuss.

Big question

1. What do you understand by an essence? How can we know essences?



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