



The Avanti PRE Curriculum
Teacher Resource Sheet 7.2.2a
Section from Book:
“Can You Step in the Same River Twice?”



From ‘The IF Machine’, by Peter Worley, pages 61- 65

Timmy and Tina have gone to a river with their parents for a picnic. They are paddling in the river close to the river bank. They also play ‘Pooh-sticks’, the famous game played by Winnie-the-Pooh. (Timmy and Tina both drop a stick into the river from one side of a bridge and then race to the other side to see which one emerges first.) After a while, their mum calls for them to come and eat their sandwiches. They run up to their picnic rug and sit down to tuck into their lunch. Later, when they have finished eating Timmy says, ‘I am going down to the river to catch some more tadpoles.’

Tina looks at him and says, ‘Which river?’

Timmy is a little puzzled by her question and says, ‘the same one we were in earlier. Which one did you think?’ he asks sarcastically, ‘There is only one river around here.’

His sister thinks for a moment and then looks at him with a cheeky smile and says, ‘But this is not the same river. You can’t step in the same river twice because when you get there it will be a different river.’

🚩 Question: Can you say why Tina thinks it is a different river?

‘What do you mean?’ asks the puzzled Timmy.

It won’t be the same river because the water that was there when we there last will have flowed away. The river has changed so it’s not the same river, it’s a different one.’ Tina stands looking at Timmy with her arms crossed waiting for an answer.

‘Oh, I get what you mean now,’ says Timmy, ‘but it is still the same river only with different water.’

His sister glares at him. ‘That’s all the river is though: water,’ she says. ‘So, if the water has moved, then it is a different river, surely?’

🚩 Students get into pairs and adopt either Timmy’s or Tina’s position, then discuss with each other from that point of view, trying to persuade the other one of their position.