

How to Have Fearlessly Curious
Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times

I NEVER



THOUGHT



OF IT

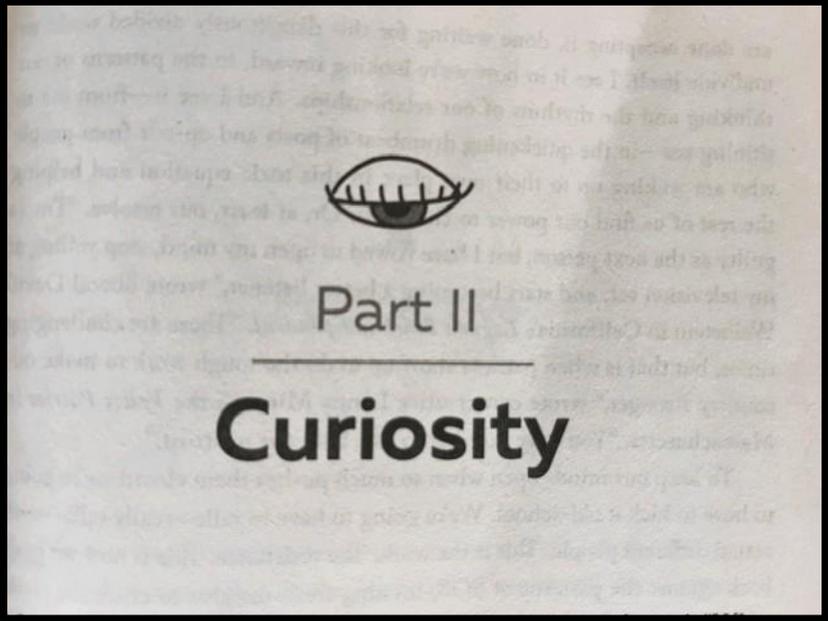
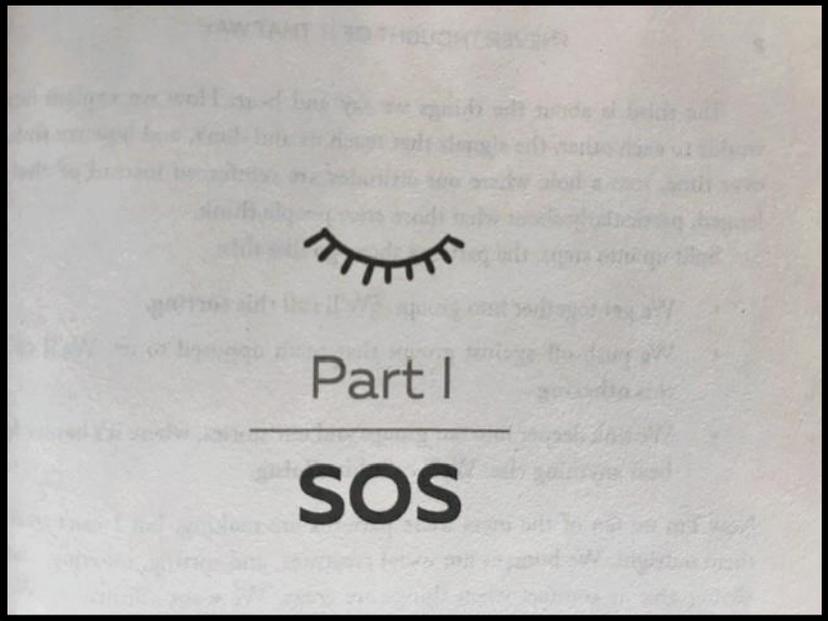


THAT WAY

“The book’s greatest offering, I think, is permission to reclaim
people we might have dumped for ideological reasons; such
connections won’t sully us but may in fact enrich us.”

—NEW YORK TIMES

M Ó N I C A G U Z M Á N



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The Scriptures are full of passages instructing us on how to interact with others, and to listen more than speak. I'm reminded of the Prayer of St. Francis....Grant that I may not so much seek to be understood as to understand.

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Colossians 3:12

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**

James 1:19-20

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this:
Everyone should be **quick to listen, slow to speak
and slow to become angry**, because human anger
does not produce the righteousness that God
desires.

Proverbs 1:5

Fools find no pleasure in understanding,
but delight in airing their own opinions.



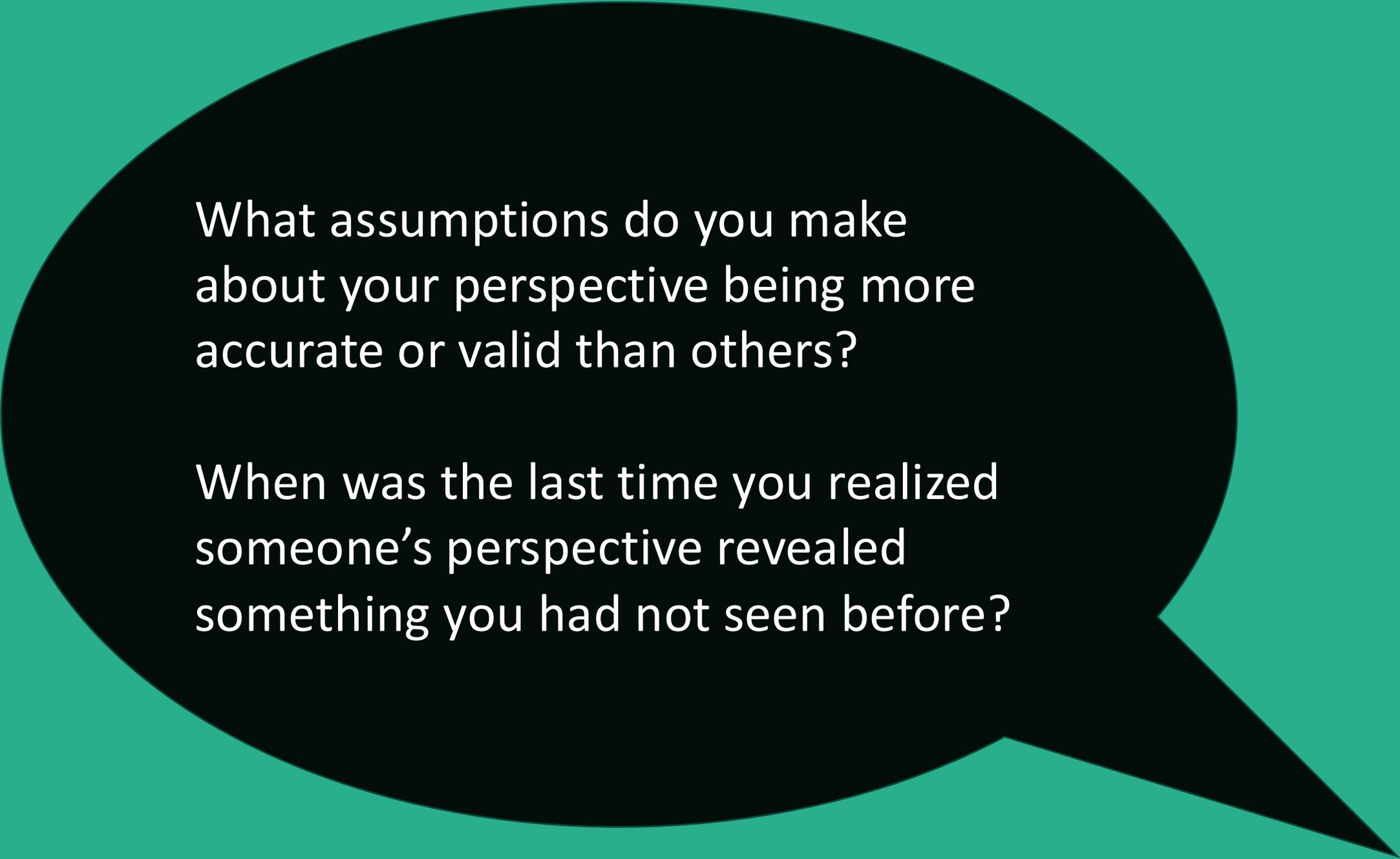
Are all
perspectives
valid? What do
you think?

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Perspective is not just one's opinion, but is the filter through which one perceives events. It is influenced by genetics, upbringing, and experiences.

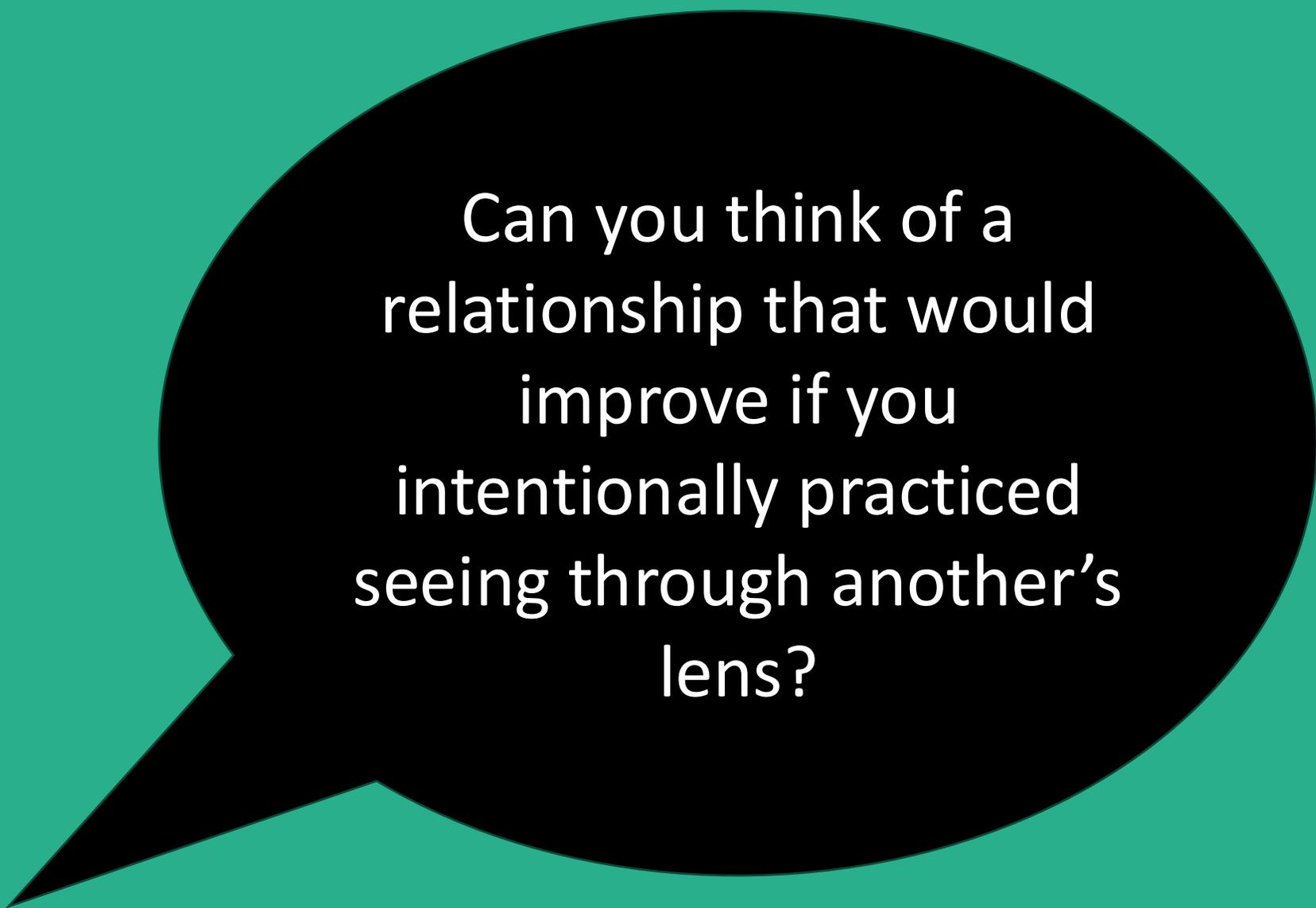
Here is an example of NOT honoring another's perspective:





What assumptions do you make about your perspective being more accurate or valid than others?

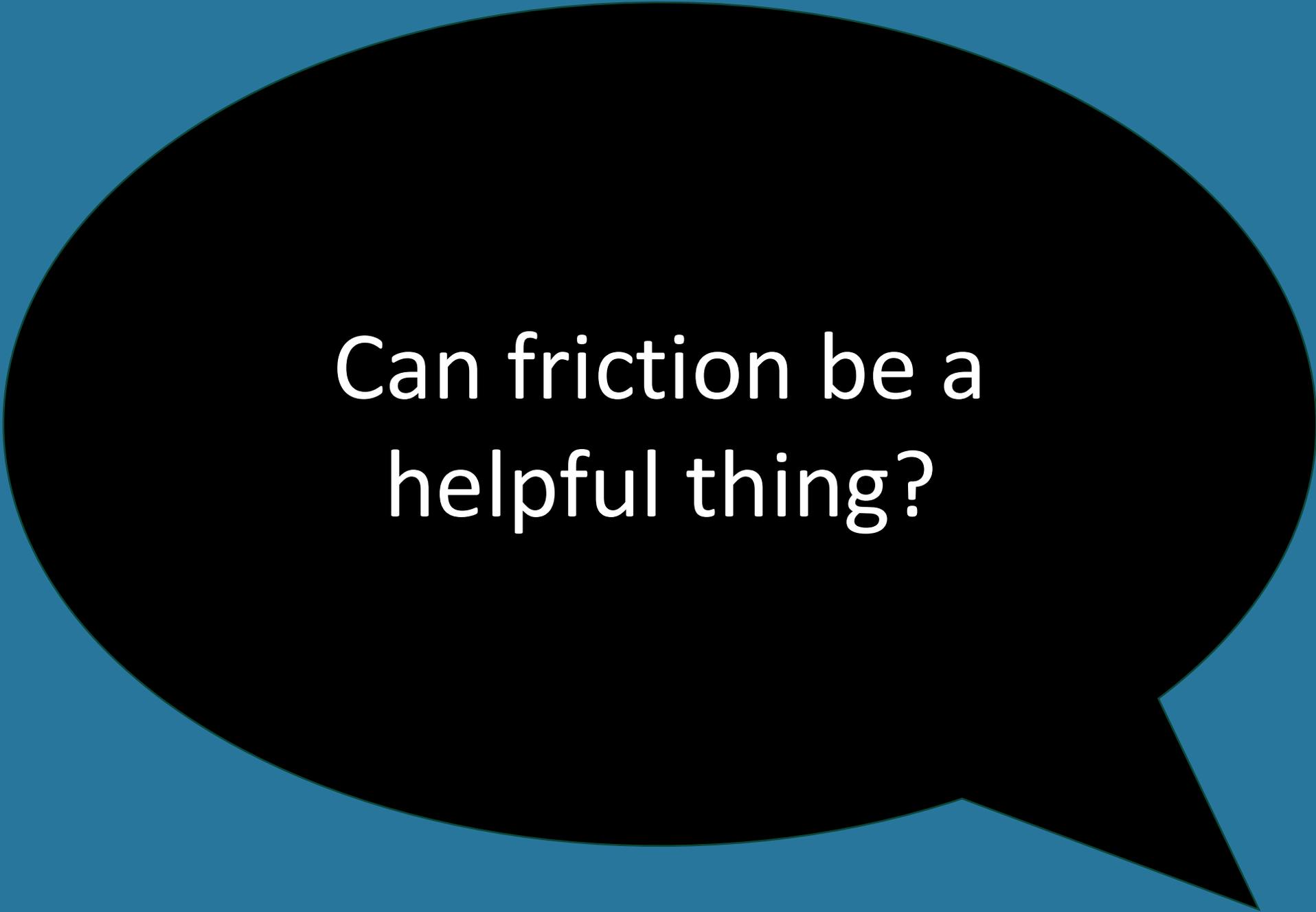
When was the last time you realized someone's perspective revealed something you had not seen before?



Can you think of a relationship that would improve if you intentionally practiced seeing through another's lens?

Let's talk: Have a conversation in which you are truly curious about another person's perspective.

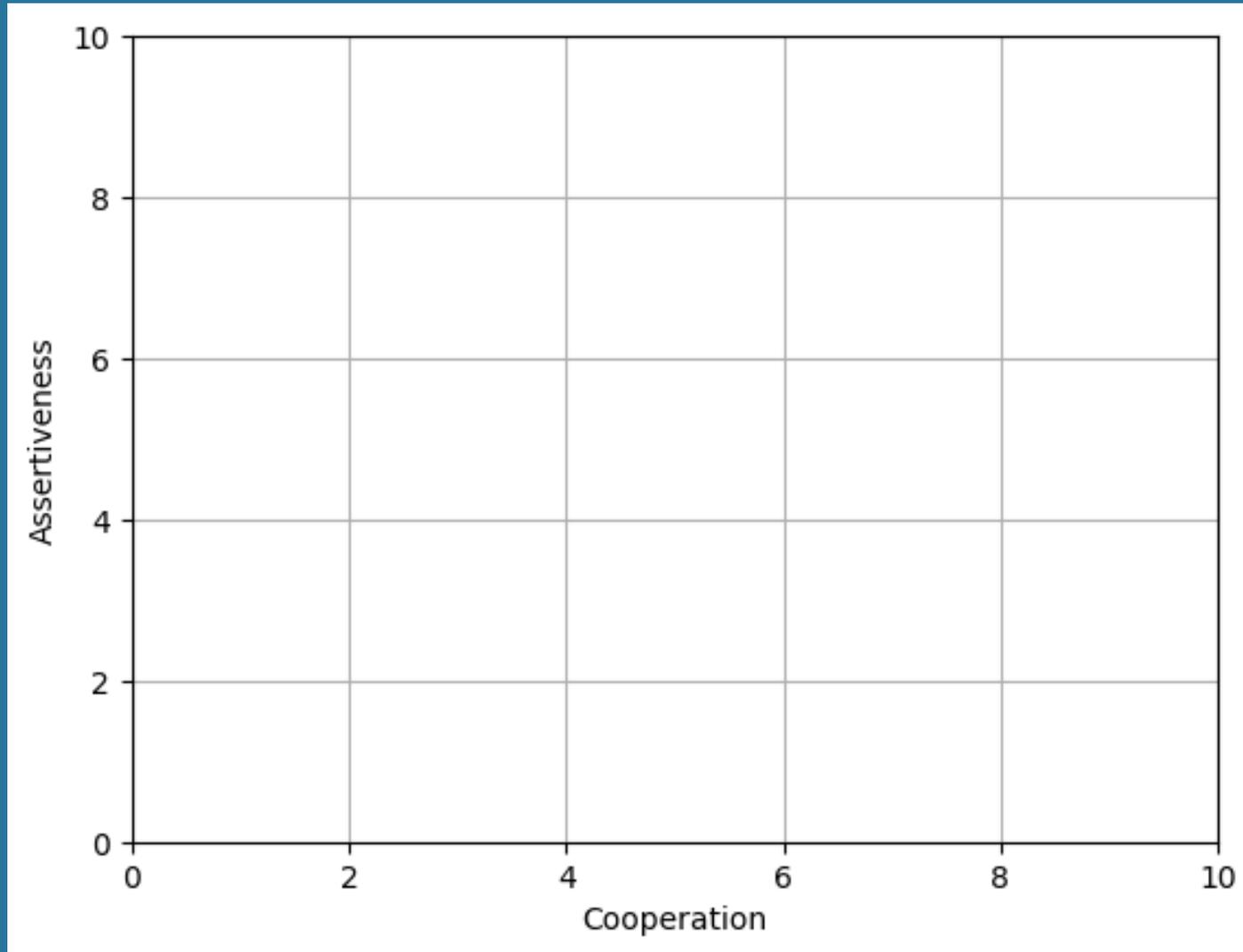
A light example: Do cats or dogs make better pets?

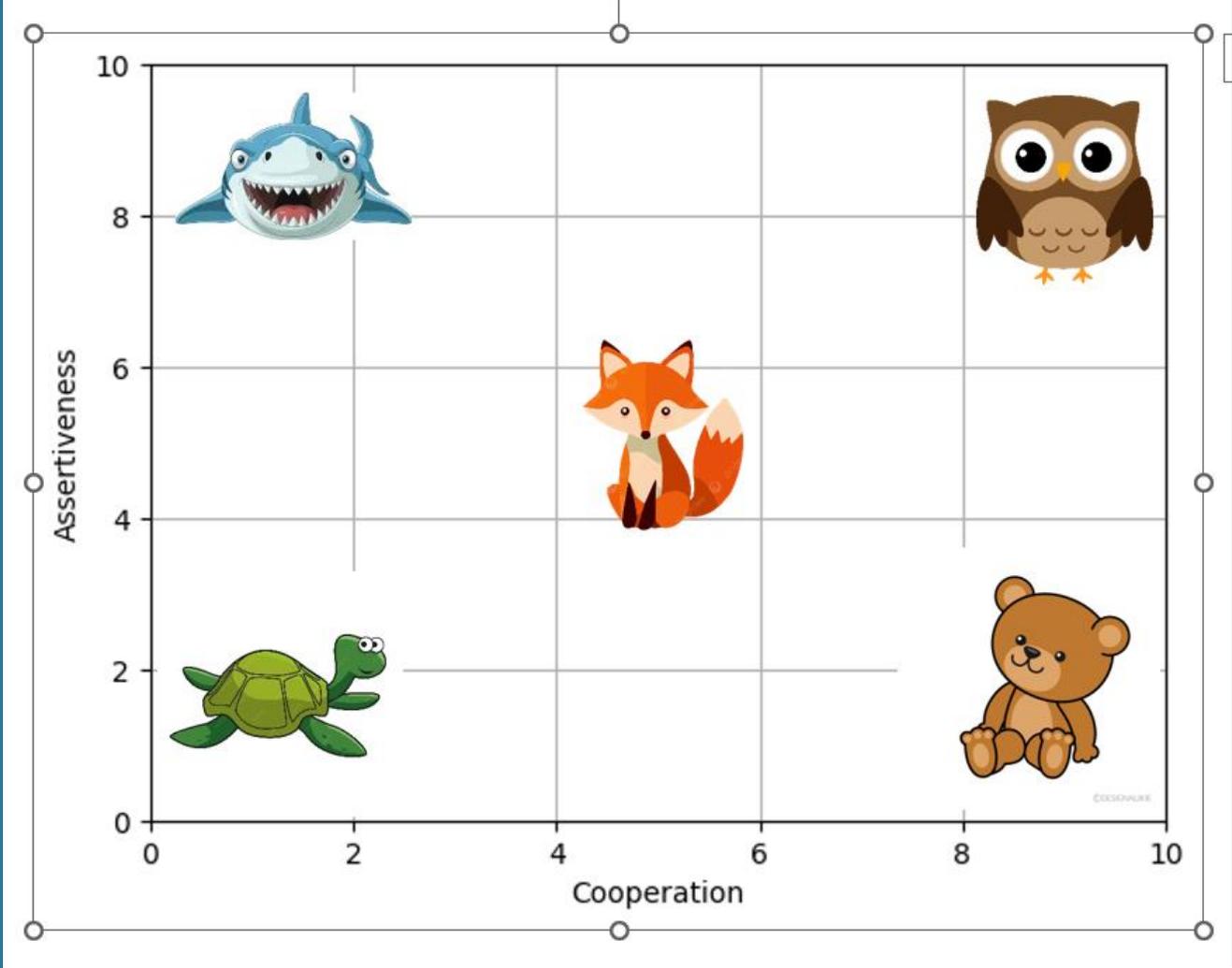


Can friction be a
helpful thing?

How do YOU
typically
respond to
friction?

Thomas – Kilmann Conflict Management Model





Various ways people deal with friction/conflict:

SHARK – Competitor...High assertiveness, low cooperation

TURTLE – Avoider...Low assertiveness, low cooperation

TEDDY BEAR – Accommodator...Low assertiveness, high cooperation

FOX – Compromiser...Medium assertiveness, medium cooperation

OWL – Collaborator...High assertiveness, high cooperation

**What makes a meaningful
conversation?**

How to have meaningful conversations across divides:

RATHER THAN THIS:

Parallel monologues

Planning next response

Objective is to persuade
or win a debate

Defensive rebuttals

THIS:

Listening to understand

Genuinely attentive

Asking thoughtful questions

Mutual discovery

How hard is this? How to balance sharing with listening?

“Replace judgment with curiosity” –
Lynn Nottage, playwright

“Be curious, not judgmental” –
Ted Lasso

Try another curious conversation:

Beach or mountain vacation?

Listen in order to UNDERSTAND, not
persuade or argue

TRACTION:

How to keep it going?

See take-home exercises

Next Sunday –
BraverAngels.org

