



Questions for Classroom Discussion

The Perfect Toy

- **What are the types of toys that have been extremely popular in the past?**
 - ⇒ Consider toys that have been around for centuries, such as balls, cards, dolls, checkers, puzzles, blocks, and so on
 - ⇒ Consider “classic” toys that everyone knows, such as Barbie Dolls, Legos, Slinky, Lincoln Logs, Matchbox Cars, Transformers, and so on
 - ⇒ Consider “fads” in toys that come and go, such as the Pet Rock, Beanie Babies, Zhu-Zhu Pets, “Tickle Me Elmo”, Gameboy, Webkins, Furby, Silly Bands, and so on

- **How do toys seem to be changing over time?**
 - ⇒ Consider new technology, such as electronics, computers, and wireless capabilities
 - ⇒ Consider how presentation and packaging have changed, such as color and material
 - ⇒ Consider how new TV shows, movies, sports stars, and other current events influence new toys

- **What are the main characteristics that a popular toy must have?**
 - ⇒ Consider what features make a new toy engaging and “fun,” and how some toys have lots of “bells and whistles”, while other simple toys stimulate a child’s imagination
 - ⇒ Consider other important factors that contribute to a toy’s popularity, including safety, cost, size, and packaging
 - ⇒ Consider cross-promotions with TV, movies, and popular culture, and how that can influence a toy’s popularity