

Introductory notes

Welcome to Primary Ethics Bites! This **Bite** takes 10 - 15 minutes to complete, but you may find the ideas within are revisited in conversations for weeks to come.

This **Bite** is available in both audio/visual and printed (PDF) format. The same content is covered in each, so choose the option that best suits your students' learning environment. There's no need to download the PDF to use as a worksheet if you have chosen to watch the video.

Bites for years 3 – 6 are designed for children to tackle individually or in a small group. An adult learning supervisor may like to participate by helping to read the stories and questions, by modelling genuine curiosity and by supporting the student to think for themselves.

Aim to be neutral when listening to the ideas expressed by your students and ask them to give the reasons behind their opinion rather than try to do the thinking and reasoning for them. Encourage the student to talk through their ideas by using expressions like "Ok", "Hmmm, I wonder..." and "That's an interesting thought!".

There is often not a single right answer when it comes to exploring an ethical dilemma. In that way, ethics is different to other lessons like maths. Instead, what ethical inquiry helps us do is to look at a situation or idea from different points of view and to build a deeper understanding of the considerations in each dilemma. We develop our skills in critical thinking and ethical reasoning and our ability to make sound and well thought out decisions in a range of circumstances.

Notes on *In Sahir's shoes*

Objectives/ethical concepts explored

- Students' capacity to understand the feelings of others, including those in circumstances which differ markedly from their own to
- Encourage students to engage in targeted exercises and discussions which scaffold the development of the cognitive imaginative process of putting ourselves in another's place
- Recognise the importance of developing the ability to engage in this cognitive process
- Employ this process in an attempt to understand the feelings of children who are child labourers.

Knowledge & skills developed

Knowledge

- Life of a child labourer and their family

Skills

- Listening and recalling
- Imagining
- Questioning
- Giving reasons
- Empathising

Essential questions

- Can you imagine how a character is feeling?
- Why is it important to understand how others are feeling?

Note: For this lesson children will need a shoe with shoelaces that they can tie, or a pair of shoelaces, or ribbons or strings about the length and thickness of shoelaces. The shoes can be yours or someone else's. Just place the shoe beside the child or beneath their chair, so it's ready when needed later in the lesson.



Years 3 – 6

Ethics education for children
primaryethics.com.au/education

This **Bite** aims to continue the development of students' capacity to understand the feelings of others, including those in circumstances which differ markedly from their own. Our particular focus in this context is on children who are child labourers.

This **Bite** allows us to widen the scope of our empathising; to understand the feelings of those we are not in direct contact with or who are in situations very different from the ones we ourselves have faced. These feelings and reasoning processes are widely recognised as playing an important role in moral development and decision-making: they motivate us to act in a way that benefits others, even when this comes at a cost to ourselves.

Bites are based on Primary Ethics lessons developed for use by trained adult volunteer facilitators in NSW public schools. Our lessons are based on philosophical ethics and use a 'community of inquiry' approach – the *asking power* of the group – to work together in discussion. The community of inquiry approach provides students with the opportunity to reflect on and form their own responses and consider the ideas of others in a safe and supportive environment.

You can read more about the community of inquiry approach here:
<https://primaryethics.com.au/about-ethics-classes/what-happens-in-an-ethics-class/>

And watch this video for a great explanation of philosophical ethics:
<https://vimeo.com/199903396>