

Introductory note for parents and carers

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

This **Bite** is available in both audio/visual and printed (PDF) formats. The same content is covered in each, so simply choose the option that best suits your student's learning environment. There's no need to read along or use the PDF as a worksheet if you choose to use the audio/visual version.

If an adult is not available to assist, we recommend downloading the audio/visual version as the stories and questions are read to the student for them. It's best if the recording can be paused during the 'thinking time' to allow the student to work through the questions at their own pace.

Bites for the 3 – 6 age group are designed for students to tackle individually, with one or more siblings or peers. An adult may like to participate by helping to read the stories and questions by modelling genuine curiosity and supporting the student to think for themselves.

Aim to be neutral when listening to the ideas expressed by your student 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 ethical dilemmas. 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 think about the reasons *behind* those points of view. When we do this, we think more deeply about our own views, discover new ideas, and 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 well-thought-out decisions in a range of circumstances.

How come it's different for Oki?

Objectives/ethical concepts explored

- An understanding that common features of humanity underlie many observed cultural differences, including differences in customs and differences in moral codes and practices.
- A recognition that circumstances influence the moral rules and practices which are adopted.
- An understanding that common moral principles or values can underlie quite different sets of moral rules.

Skills developed

- Listening and recalling
- Comparing and contrasting laws and punishments in different communities
- Reflecting on own values

Essential questions

- Should the same rules and consequences apply to everyone on the team?
- Are the laws and rules in your community different from the traditional Inuit, and if so, why do you think that is?
- Was it fair that Oki got a lighter punishment for breaking a rule?
- Could it have been the right thing to do, even if it wasn't fair?

In this topic we focus on asking students to think about some of the challenges involved in thinking for ourselves and standing up for what is right – and how this may require a great deal of courage.

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/199903>