



Introductory note for parents and carers

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

Bites are 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.

If an adult is not available to assist, we recommend downloading the multimedia 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 K – 2 age group are designed for students to tackle individually, with one or more siblings or peers, and/or with the assistance of an adult. The adult's role is to read the stories and questions (if using the PDF), model genuine curiosity and to support 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.

What a whale might know

Objectives/ethical concepts explored

- The idea of meaning to bring about a particular effect
- Whether animals sometimes mean to do the things they do
- What is involved in knowing that something is the case
- The role knowledge plays

Skills developed

- Listening and recalling
- Imagining
- Judging strength of inductive inference

Essential questions

- How do we know what an animal intends?
- Does knowledge help us understand intentions?

This topic seeks to build on children's intuitive grasp of the difference between deliberate and accidental actions and to help them see that our deliberate actions are based on what we know or believe to be true. Children are invited to think about a story in which Kio, a young boy, is listening to his grandfather describe an encounter with a whale.

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>