

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 for weeks to come.

This Bite is available in both video and printed (PDF) format. The same content is covered in each, so choose the option that best suits your student's 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 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 by 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 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 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.

Put yourself in Sahir's shoes

Objectives/ethical concepts explored

- Understanding the feelings of others, including those in circumstances which differ markedly from their own

Skills developed

- 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 your child 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 shoe can be yours or someone else's. Just place the shoe beside your child so it's ready when needed later in the lesson.

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.

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>