

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 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 students' learning environment. There's no need to download the PDF to use as a worksheet if you have chosen to watch to the video.

Bites for years 3 – 6 are designed for students to tackle individually or with 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 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.

The rule's the rule. Is that okay?

Objectives/ethical concepts explored

- Is citing an authority a good enough reason to justify your action or belief, or do we need to consider their reasons for their stance?
- Does it take courage to stand up against an authority?

Skills developed

- Listening
- Recalling
- Reflecting on own beliefs

Essential questions

- Do you think the segregation laws were fair?
- Should you question a rule if you don't understand the reasons behind it, or you think it is unfair?
- Was Rosa Parks wrong to disobey the law?
- Was it important for Rosa Parks to stand up for her people?
- Did it take courage?

This **Bite** encourages students to think about some of the challenges involved in thinking for themselves 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>