

## Introductory note for parents and carers

Welcome! This **Bite** takes around 15 minutes, but the ideas within may be revisited in conversations around the dinner table for weeks to come!

This **Bite** is available in both video and printed (PDF) formats. Each covers the same content, so choose the best option for your student's learning environment. There's no need to use the PDF as a worksheet if you choose the video.

If an adult is not available to assist, we recommend downloading the video version as stories and questions are read to students for them. The video can be paused during the 'thinking time' so students can work through the questions at their own pace.

**Bites** for the K – 2 age group are designed for children to tackle individually, with 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 ideas expressed by your student. Ask them to give reasons for 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 '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.

## When Harry met Harley

### Objectives/ethical concepts explored

- What makes me one and the same person I used to be?
- The role that memory plays in making us who we are.

### Skills developed

- Listening and recalling

### Essential questions

- Are you the same person that you used to be? –
  - What if you look completely different?
  - What if you have different habits and abilities from what you used to have?
  - What if you have a different name?
- Could it be your memories that make you the same person?

In this topic we invite children to begin to think for themselves about what constitutes a person's identity over time. Is it established by *physical* continuity or *psychological* continuity?

We meet Harry and Harley, two caterpillars that develop into butterflies. While they remember what it was like to eat leaves, they don't do that anymore. Is Harley still Harley, even though he looks quite different from the way he used to? We help the two friends try to figure it out.

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>