



EduTrend Contents

P4C · ETHICS AND MORALITY · MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Kind Lie

Is it ever right to lie to protect someone's feelings?
Comparing rules and results

Ages 11–13

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 03

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 03 · AT A GLANCE

The Kind Lie

Students read an invented scenario: Maya's friend proudly shows her a drawing she thinks is not good, and asks what she thinks. Should Maya tell the truth or say something kind that is not true? Students create questions, then compare two ways of thinking: "always follow the rule" and "choose what leads to the best result". They test each with counter-examples.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- distinguish rule-based and results-based reasoning;
- identify a moral dilemma;
- use counter-examples;
- suggest creative solutions.

KEY WORDS

dilemma · honesty · consequence · rule · duty · counter-example

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: friendships. English: argument. RE: moral teachings on truth.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree, add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Scenario card
- Two-column chart
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 03 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Read the Maya and the drawing scenario.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Is it ever right to lie to protect someone's feelings?"</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Find an answer for Maya that you can defend with two reasons and one objection answered.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Some moral thinking focuses on duties and rules; other thinking focuses on consequences.

Dilemmas are useful because both sides have good reasons, which pushes students to weigh them.

Common ideas to listen for

- “White lies never hurt.” They can damage trust.
- “Honesty means saying everything.” Tact is possible.
- “Rules or results must win every time.” Many people use both.

Adapting the activity

Support

Provide a rules versus results sorting sheet.

Stretch

Invent a case where the rule should win and one where results should.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Rules or results?

Compare.

Rules or results?

Choice	Rule-based reason	Results-based reason
Tell the truth		
Kind lie		
Third way		

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Is there a kind way to be honest? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The Kind Lie is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Ethics and Morality programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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