



EduTrend Contents

P4C · FRIENDSHIP AND BELONGING · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Can a Friend Ask Too Much?

Loyalty, honesty and the limits of friendship

Ages 12–14

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 04

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

ACTIVITY 04 · AT A GLANCE

Can a Friend Ask Too Much?

Students read an invented dilemma: Mia's best friend asks her to say he was with her when he broke a school window. Mia wants to be loyal but also honest. Students list what a good friend owes and what a friend should never ask, then create questions and enquire into whether loyalty to friends has limits.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- analyse a loyalty dilemma;
- weigh loyalty against honesty;
- reason about limits;
- justify a judgement.

KEY WORDS

loyal · honest · owe · limit · trust · betray

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: healthy relationships.

English: moral dilemmas in stories.

RE: values.

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)

- Mia dilemma card
- Owe and never-ask 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

Keep to the invented dilemma. If a real situation is raised, follow school procedures.

ACTIVITY 04 · 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 Mia’s dilemma.	<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>“Can a friend ask too much?”</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)

Decide what Mia should do and justify it.

ACTIVITY 04 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophers have long discussed whether we owe friends special loyalty and how this fits with duties to everyone.

A friendship that requires dishonesty or harm may not be a good friendship at all.

Common ideas to listen for

- “A true friend always covers for you.” Loyalty has limits.
- “Refusing a friend ends the friendship.” Good friends can accept no.
- “Loyalty and honesty never clash.” Sometimes they do.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use yes, no and maybe cards.

Stretch

Write the conversation Mia could have with her friend.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

What friends owe

Sort.

What friends owe

A friend should...	A friend should never ask...

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Is loyalty always a good thing? 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

Can a Friend Ask Too Much? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Friendship and Belonging 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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