



EduTrend Contents

P4C · TRUTH AND HONESTY · MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Lie to Protect a Friend

Is lying ever the right thing to do?

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 Lie to Protect a Friend

Students read an invented scenario: an older student who has been unkind to Leo asks Maya where Leo is hiding. Maya knows. Should she tell the truth, lie, or find another option? Students compare the view that lying is always wrong, associated with the philosopher Immanuel Kant, with the view that consequences should decide, then look for creative third options.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- analyse a moral dilemma;
- compare absolute and consequence-based views;
- find third options;
- reason about honesty and loyalty.

KEY WORDS

honesty · loyalty · absolute ·
consequence · dilemma · option

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: friendship and bullying. RE:
truth-telling. English: argument.

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
- 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 scenario. If bullying concerns come up, follow school policy.

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 scenario about Maya and Leo.	<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 lying ever the right thing to do?"</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 Maya should do and defend it against the strongest objection.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

The philosopher Immanuel Kant argued that lying is always wrong, even to prevent harm; many others disagree.

Looking for third options shows that dilemmas are not always a choice between only two answers.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Loyalty always beats honesty.” Both matter.
- “Silence is lying.” Not always.
- “Kant’s view is obviously wrong.” It has serious reasons.

Adapting the activity

Support

Offer three options to choose from.

Stretch

Build the strongest case for never lying.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Options

Weigh them.

Options

Option	For	Against
Tell the truth		
Lie		
Third option		

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Is refusing to answer the same as lying? 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 Lie to Protect a Friend is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Truth and Honesty 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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