

Commitment to Character

Secondary Dinner Dilemmas

Developed by students at Safety Harbor Middle School
Pinellas County Schools, Florida

Respect:

Situation: James is a good baseball player, and is starting second base man for his team. Another player on his team plays second base, too. His coach states James is better, but James wants the other player to get some playing time.

Dilemma: On one hand, James wants the other player to play some. On the other hand, his coach wants James to play second.

Discussion: What should James do?

Situation: James wants to see a new movie with his friends one night. His parents won't let him because it's rated R.

Dilemma: On one hand, he could lie and say he's going to a different movie. On the other hand, he could obey his parents' wishes.

Discussion: What advice do you have for James?

Responsibility

Situation: Lindsey sees another student bullying the same student every day.

Dilemma: On one hand, she could tell her teacher or an administrator about the bullying. On the other hand, she doesn't want to be a tattletale.

Discussion: what advice do you have for Lindsey?

Situation: One day James and his friend Lindsay were in the gym needed to dress out for PE. Lindsey tried to convince James not to dress out.

Dilemma: On one hand, James didn't want to dress out, but on the other hand, James knew his grade was going to drop if he didn't.

Discussion: What should James do?

Situation: James sees his friend hanging out with the wrong people. He thinks that they are doing drugs.

Dilemma: On the one hand, he wants to help his friend. On the other hand, James does not want his friend to be angry with him or not want to hang out with him anymore.

Discussion: What is your advice for James?

Situation: Lindsey thinks her friend is doing drugs. When Lindsay confronts her friend, she gets mad and tells Sue to mind her own business.

Dilemma: On the one hand, Lindsey does not want to make her friend mad. On the other hand, Lindsey knows she should tell an adult.

Discussion: What advice do you have for Lindsey?

Situation: James wanted to go to the park. James took his sister's bike without her permission. He came back with the bike broken with sticks in the spokes and leaves it in the garage. The next day, his sister complains to their parents about the broken bicycle.

Dilemma: On the one hand, it is right to take responsibility for damaging the bike. On the other hand, his sister will make a big deal out of it and he will get grounded.

Discussion: What advice should you give James?

Situation: Sam's soccer team's goalie is sick. Sam and one of his friends both volunteer to be replacement goalie. Sam thinks being a goalie would make him more popular.

Dilemma: On the one hand, Sam knew only one of them can be a goalie. On the other hand, Sam knows his friend is better as a goalie than he is.

Discussion: What advice do you have for Sam?

Situation: One morning, Lindsey did not want to get up for school. She needed to catch her bus in a half hour.

Dilemma: On one hand, Lindsey really wanted to sleep in. On the other hand, she knew she had to cooperate and catch her bus.

Discussion: What advice would you give Lindsey?

Cooperation:

Situation: James's teacher assigned him to do a report with a group that has someone he really dislikes.

Dilemma: On one hand, James really doesn't want to work with the person he dislikes. On the other hand, he knows he should be cooperative with the person and the group.

Discussion: What advice would you give James?

Situation: James and Lindsey were working on a science project together, and James wants to create a volcano and Lindsey wants to make a model of a space flight.

Dilemma: On the one hand, they know they have to choose one topic. On the other hand, they had to work together.

Discussion: What advice would you have for James and Lindsey?

Situation: Lindsey and her friends are shopping at the mall. They are at Forever 21's 90% off sale and there is only one shirt left. They all want it.

Dilemma: On one hand, they all want the shirt. On the other hand, they don't want to fight over a shirt.

Discussion: What advice do you have for Lindsey and her friends?

Situation: Lindsey and her friends all want a different candy bar. They don't have enough money for 3 candy bars. They only have enough for one.

Dilemma: On one hand, each girl wants a different candy bar. On the other hand, they can't decide on which one.

Discussion: What advice do you have for Lindsey and her friends?

Situation: One day Sam was going to the movie theater with his friend. Sam wanted to watch the movie in Theater 2 and his friend wanted to watch a movie in Theater 7.

Dilemma: On one hand, Sam really wants to see his movie. On the other hand, he knows they should cooperate to decide on a movie.

Discussion: What do you think Sam and his friend should do?

Situation: One evening, Omar's dad and mom decide that it is Game Night. Omar goes to the game closet with his brother, Hamtaro. Omar chooses the board game, Finding Nemo. Hamtaro chooses the board game, Candyland. There is only time for one game.

Discussion: How do you think Omar and Hamtaro can decide which game to play?

Situation: Omar and Hamtaro's dad just bought a truckload of sunflower seeds for the Ham-Bowl. Mom does not approve. She thinks he bought way too much and spent way too much.

Dilemma: Mom wants the sunflower seeds gone. But Omar, Hamtaro and their dad want to keep them for the big Ham-Bowl.

Discussion: What advice do you have for the mom and dad?

Citizenship:

Situation: Lindsey has to catch the bus at 9:15 a.m. Her alarm clock does not go off and she was running late. On her way to the bus stop, she sees her elderly neighbor drop a bunch of mail.

Dilemma: On the one hand, she wants to get to the bus stop on time so she does not miss her bus. On the other hand, Lindsey wants to stop to help her elderly neighbor because they would have trouble bending down to pick up her mail.

Discussion: What choice should Lindsey make?

Kindness:

Situation: James's neighbor needs help repairing something, and James knows how to do it in just a few hours.

Dilemma: On the one hand, he knows what needs to get done. On the other hand, it is a Saturday and he wants to sleep in.

Discussion: What should James do? Why?

Situation: Lindsey sees lip gloss that she loves! The lip gloss is \$7.50. Her friend just asked to borrow \$5.00.

Dilemma: On one hand, Lindsey could buy the lip gloss for herself. On the other hand, she could loan her friend the \$5.00 and come back with more money later.

Discussion: What should Lindsey do?

Self-Motivation:

Situation: James had a low grade on his science test and is able to retake the test.

Dilemma: On the one hand, he could study and get a good grade. On the other hand, he could skip studying and hang out with his friends and take that grade.

Discussion: What advice do you have for James?

Situation: Omar and Hamtaro have a big project due tomorrow and neither one has started yet. Their parents do not approve of turning in late work.

Dilemma: On the one hand they could lie to their parents and accept a failing grade. On the other hand, they could get started on the big project and finish it without giving up.

Discussion: What advice do you have to help them?

Tolerance:

Situation: James was late to science class twice all year. The teacher gave him a conduct concern, even though he was in the class before the bell stopped ringing.

Dilemma: On the one hand, James could fight for what he believes is right. On the other hand, he could take the conduct concern and try to explain it to his mom.

Discussion: What advice do you have for James?

Honesty:

Situation: James and Lindsey were walking down the hall. James trips a passing student. The student is injured and has to go to the hospital. James begs Lindsey to cover for him and blame it on someone else.

Dilemma: On the one hand, Lindsey does not want to get someone else in trouble for something they did not do. On the other hand, Lindsey does not want to lose her friend, James.

Discussion: What advice do you have for Lindsey?

Situation: James got a B on his test, but the teacher recorded it as an A. This was a very important test, it decides if his grade is an A or B.

Dilemma: On one hand, he could not tell the teacher about her mistake and get an A. On the other hand, he could tell the teacher and get a B and he would know that he was honest.

Discussion: What should James do?

Situation: Lindsey found a pair of really cool sunglasses by the sink in the bathroom. A lady walks in and asks Lindsey if she found a pair and describes them as exactly the ones Sue found.

Dilemma: On one hand, Sue could keep the glasses and pretend she didn't find them. On the other hand, she could hand them over to the lady.

Discussion: What is your advice for Lindsey?

Situation: James cheated on a test and got a perfect score. He brags to Lindsey, his best friend.

Dilemma: Lindsey could be quiet; on the other hand she could tell his teacher that he cheated.

Discussion: What should Lindsey do?

Situation: Lindsey lied to her teacher to get more time to work on her project. Her teacher was suspicious and asked her if she lied.

Dilemma: On the one hand, Lindsey does not want a bad grade. On the other hand, she knows she should be honest.

Discussion: What should she do?

Situation: Lindsey's friend learned Lindsey's boyfriend was cheating on her. He told her to keep it a secret.

Dilemma: On the one hand, Lindsey's friend could keep it a secret and not tell anyone. On the other hand, she could tell Sue who is asking what is really going on.

Discussion: What should she do?

Situation: Lindsey wants to copy Lee's paper. She wants to get a good grade on her homework.

Dilemma: On one hand, Lee wants to help her friend. On the other hand, she knows it's wrong.

Discussion: What do you think Lee should do? Cheat and help a friend or help Lindsey and do the right thing?

Situation: Carrie wants to buy a new pair of shoes. Her mom is going to make her buy them with her own money. Carrie reached into her mom's purse and stole \$20.00 to buy the shoes she wants. Now she feels guilty knowing her mom just lost her job.

Dilemma: Should she buy the shoes and lose her mom's trust? OR give back the money secretly?

Discussion: What should Carrie do?

Self-Control:

Situation: James's friend, Lindsey, wants him to go to a party, but he has a lot of homework to do.

Dilemma: On one hand, James could rush through his homework and go to the party. On the other hand, he could skip the party and finish his homework.

Discussion: What advice do you have for James?

Caring:

Situation: James has made plans to go to the movies to see a new action movie, but then he is called by his friend Lindsay. Lindsay said she received a text message saying, "You are ugly, and no one in class likes you."

Dilemma: On one hand, James can go to see the movie of the year. On the other hand, he could skip the movie and go help his friend.

Discussion: What should James do?

Courage:

Situation: James has a bully that keeps coming back to pick on him. The bully puts him down in front of his classmates and it makes him feel embarrassed and frustrated when everybody laughs.

Dilemma: On one hand, James knows he should report this to his teacher or counselor at the school or tell his parents. On the other hand, he thinks the bully will pick on him more if he finds out he told someone.

Discussion: What should James do?

Situation: Lindsey sees a girl get picked on and left to sit alone in the cafeteria every day. The girl looks sad and doesn't say anything back to the bully. Lindsey thinks it is wrong for someone to be treated this

way.

Dilemma: On one hand, Lindsey thinks she should report this and say something to a teacher or cafeteria lady and make the bully stop. On the other hand, Lindsey does not want to get involved in someone else's problem and maybe cause the bully to make things worse.

Discussion: What should Lindsey do?

Patriotism:

Situation: Sam likes to ride his bike around the neighborhood every day after school. A friendly neighbor, a Vietnam Veteran, flies the American flag above his garage and waves to Sam when he rides past his house. One late afternoon, Sam sees someone yelling at the friendly neighbor about flying the flag every day. On the one hand, Sam feels like yelling at the man to leave his neighbor alone. On the other hand, Sam does not think he should interrupt the argument or tell the stranger to leave him alone.

Discussion: What could Sam do?