

Moral Dilemmas At Home and Alone

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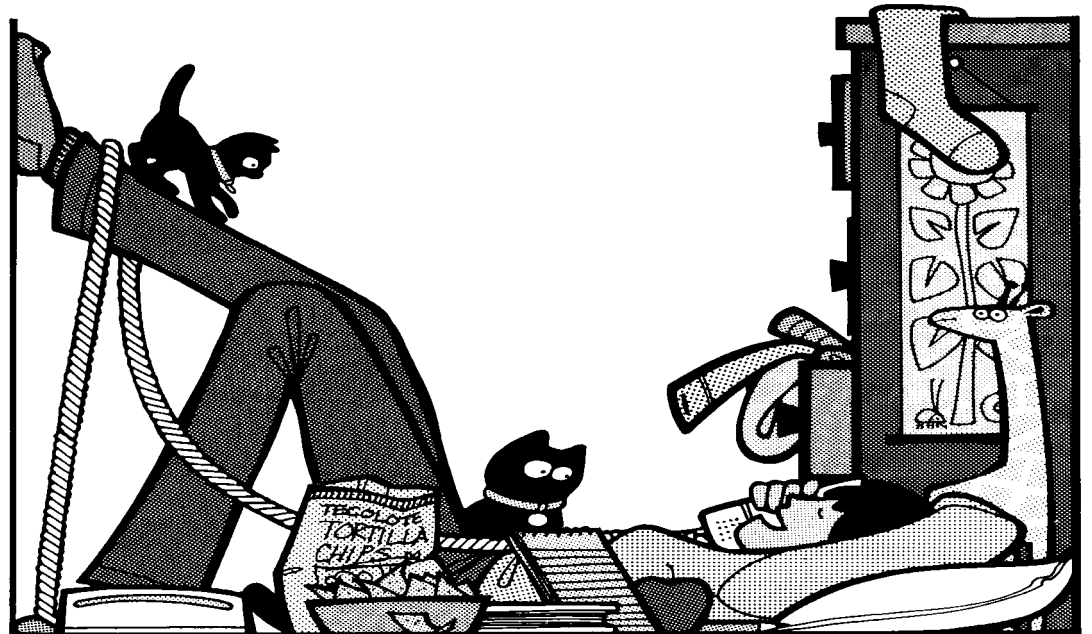
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Respecting Privacy

Background Notes

Relevant to every child, even those with no siblings who can either substitute parent for sibling interference or imagine having a sibling.

You Need To Stress To The Children That

- We all have a need for privacy but also must have access to other people and vice versa.
- Shouting at, or blocking the way of, those trying to come into your room will only alienate them.
- Try talking to the intruder.
- Negotiate some 'private time'. Have specific times of the day when you are to be left alone, but also when other family members can enter.



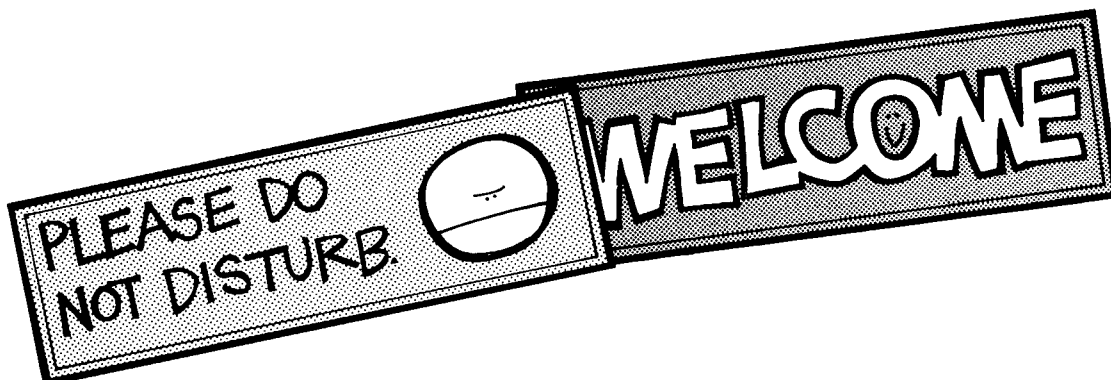
Lesson Suggestions

1. With the whole class have a show of hands to see who has/has not privacy problems.
2. The (small) group with no problems should list on an A3 sheet why they think they have no problems.
3. Split the main group with problems into sub groups and have them on a A3 sheet list the triggers of conflict (computer, TV, music, games, etc).
4. Try to match the reasons from the no problem group as possible solutions to the specific problems raised by the majority.
5. Devising a 'contract' between privacy seeker and privacy invader is a useful individual or group closing activity.



Respecting Privacy

- How does it make you feel when your sister ignores your request to stay out of your room?
- Why do you think she wants to come into your room?
- Would it help to talk with your sister about how she would feel if you went through her things while she was away?
- Are there things you could do to encourage her to stay out of your room?
- Would it help if you made a 'Please Do Not Disturb' sign for your bedroom door?
- When might you involve someone else in helping you with this situation? To whom would you talk? What would you say?



Forbidden Friend

Background Notes

Every parent has views on who are suitable and unsuitable friends for their children. The pressure of this dilemma between parents and friends, on the child, is immense.

You Need To Stress To The Children That

- Parents try to do things for what they see as good reasons.
- Sometimes, parents have to tell you things you do not want to hear, for your own good.
- Parents can only make decisions on what they know. If you think they are wrong then try to provide evidence to show that their view is based on incorrect information.

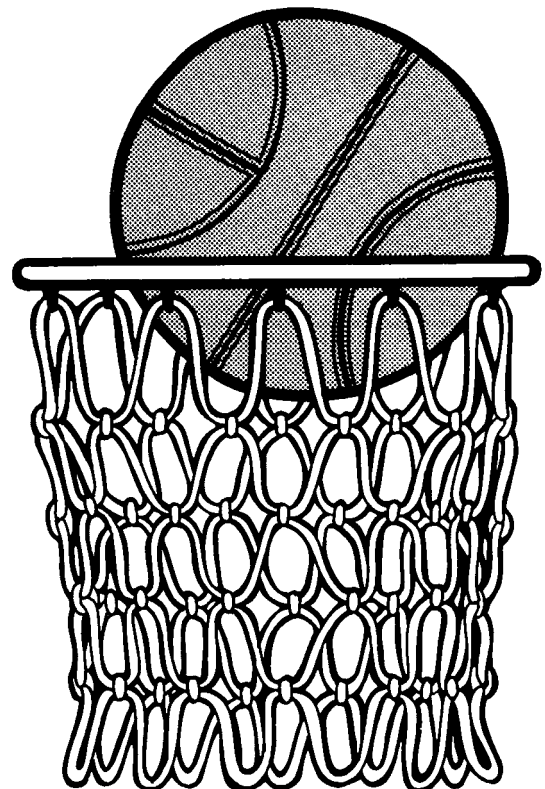
Lesson Suggestions

1. Start with each group considering the work sheet and associated questions.
2. Move the discussions away from the initial resentment but towards how they can find out why their parents think as they do and how they can change their parents view.



Forbidden Friend

- What might be the consequences of disobeying your parents and doing what they have specifically asked you not to do?
- Have you talked with your parents about their reasons for not wanting you to spend time with this classmate. What are their concerns?
- If you do not share your parents' opinion of this classmate are there some constructive things you can do to change their minds? For example: might you invite your friend to visit you when your parents are at home to give them a chance to see his/her good qualities?



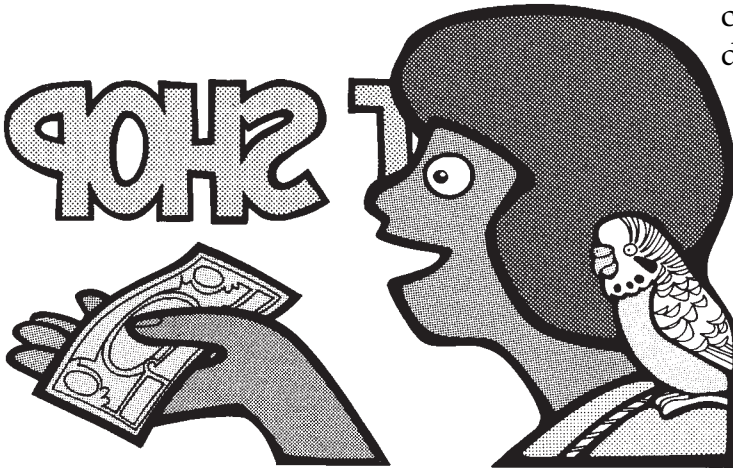
On Your Honour

Background Notes

Receiving the wrong change, whether too much or too little is a lifelong dilemma.

You Need To Stress To The Children That

- If you feel that you should complain when you receive too little change you should always be honest when receiving too much change.
- In many shops, it is the assistant who has to make up the mistake from their own wages.



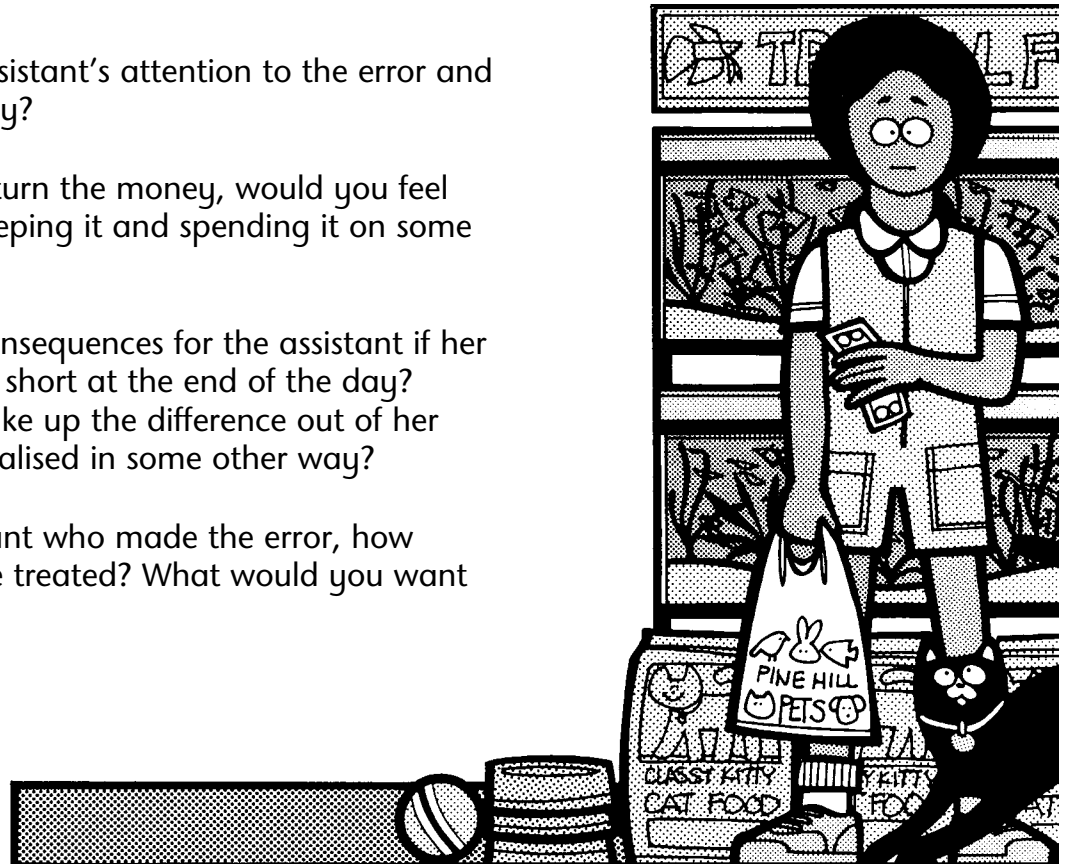
Lesson Suggestions

1. The four questions below can be converted into a class questionnaire with 'tick box' answers.
2. The results should then be discussed with the class.
3. You could have a role play with script summaries on cards covering:
 - a) Customer accepts too much change.
 - b) Customer accepts too much change, then the assistant realises and asks for it back.
 - c) Customer accepts too little change.
 - d) Customer returns excess change.



On Your Honour

- Would you call the assistant's attention to the error and return the extra money?
- If you chose not to return the money, would you feel comfortable about keeping it and spending it on something you wanted?
- What might be the consequences for the assistant if her cash drawer came up short at the end of the day? Might she have to make up the difference out of her own pocket or be penalised in some other way?
- If you were the assistant who made the error, how would you want to be treated? What would you want the customer to do?



Defending a Friend

Background Notes

The dilemma of what to do when you hear friends being spoken about in a negative way is a lifelong issue.

You Need To Stress To The Children That

- If the people making the comments did not intend the friend to hear then this is different to name calling.
- The friend is probably aware of the comments. Try to talk about the problem with him/her.

Lesson Suggestions

1. As this could cause embarrassment to some children, it is best to have individuals or groups discuss the specific case on the worksheet.
2. Afterwards, see how many would go to the defence of their friend (Qu 2) and what they would say.



Defending a Friend

- Why do you think the kids are making fun of your friend? How do you think it makes them feel?
- Would you come to the defence of your friend? If so what would you say?
- Body shapes differ naturally. Some people carry more weight in proportion to their height than do others. But if your friend is extremely overweight, he may have a health problem. Would you feel comfortable talking to him about his weight? If so what would you say?

