

Understanding and Sharing The Feelings Of Others

SCENARIO 1

Selam was at lunch with his friends, but when he ran to the bathroom, he left his phone on the table. While he was gone, his friend Mwikali grabbed Selam's phone and started looking through his texts. The first text she saw was an angry one from Selam's mom because he failed math.



How would that make Selam feel?

Selam may feel that his privacy has been violated and may lose trust in his friend.



Why would Selam not want to tell his friends about his bad result?

Selam may consider his grades to be private information.



Were Mwikali's actions acceptable?

Students should consider their own norms around privacy connected to both grades and their phone, as well as what they expect from their friends.



How would the other friends at the lunch table feel about Mwikali's actions?

Students should consider how they would act if they saw potentially inappropriate behavior.



What do you think about Mwikali? Was Mwikali acting ethically? Would you want to be friends with Mwikali?

Answers may vary.



How would you feel if someone did that to you?

Answers may vary.



Is snooping ever okay? What if you are worried about your friend?

Students should reflect on their own norms around privacy and personal relationships.

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SCENARIO 2

Yonas is talking to Masese when he trips and falls into the sand. Masese thinks he looks really funny and takes a picture of him, but Yonas doesn't laugh and appears embarrassed.



Why might Masese post the photo online?

Students should recognize Masese's motivations: getting laughs or likes is usually an acceptable motivator for posting something online, as long as it does not come at the expense of another person.



Why is Yonas upset?

Students should reflect on how to consider others' feelings when using social media.



What do you think Yonas should say to Masese?

Students should come up with strategies to address this behavior.



How would you feel if someone took an embarrassing picture of you? Would you want that online?

Students should consider their own norms around what they want to be shared online by others.



Is this situation an incident of bullying?

Students should consider what constitutes bullying and discuss the particulars of this specific situation.

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SCENARIO 3

Victoria is a 15-year-old student with two brothers, a mom, and a lot of friends and schoolmates. Victoria and Marek are schoolmates and are working together on a project in science class. Yesterday, they had a science test and when everyone received their results, Marek noticed that Victoria didn't look happy with the result. The next week, Victoria is absent from school for several days, so Marek has to work on the science project by himself. When she returns, she tells Marek that she has to see the doctor, but she doesn't say anything else.



Does anyone need to know about Victoria's test results? Her medical history? Why?

Students should consider how different information has different levels of privacy. Victoria's results at school are sensitive information that she would not want her friends, schoolmates, or the public at large to know. However, they are not private to her parents/guardians. The same goes for her medical history, though that information is much more sensitive.



Whom might Victoria want to talk to about any of these issues?

Victoria may personally want to keep her information private. This decision should be respected. She can also choose to share some, but not all, private information. For example, she may share struggles she may have with results at school with her parents/guardians, but not her friends.



In your life, what are examples of information that you want your parents/guardians to see but not your friends or vice versa?

Students should consider their own choices regarding privacy.

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