

Dinner Dilemmas

Purpose: To encourage family discussions that promote character education in our community.

To Parents: Dinner Dilemmas will be sent home once a month with your child. Please have your family discuss one dilemma each week. Try to decide how the character quality of the month relates to each situation presented—and to each member of your family. Thank you for participating!

Month: _____ Character Quality of the Month: Respect

Definition: Treating others and yourself with courtesy and consideration

Week 1

Situation: Sam feels his aunt is always mean and rude to him. He wants to talk back, but his parents say he needs to show respect.

Dilemma: On one hand, Sam does not believe he should show respect to someone who is not nice to him. On the other hand, Sam is expected to show respect to his family members.

Discussion: What advice do you have for Sam?

Week 2

Situation: Sue and her friends are standing in the hallway when another student—obviously upset—goes by in a wheelchair. Sue's friends roll their eyes and laugh.

Dilemma: On one hand, Sue thinks it's okay to laugh with her friends. On the other hand, Sue knows she should show respect for other people, even if they are different.

Discussion: What advice do you have for Sue?

Week 3

Situation: Sam gets home from school, and there is a sick stray dog in his front yard.

Dilemma: On one hand, it is right to show respect for all living creatures by taking care of them. On the other hand, Sam may endanger the other pets in his house if he brings the dog inside.

Discussion: What advice do you have for Sam?

Week 4

Situation: Sue and her family go to the beach. There is a big pile of trash, and the trash container is far away.

Dilemma: On one hand, Sue and her family know they should show respect for nature and help keep the beach clean. On the other hand, they did not make the mess, and there are workers who get paid to pick up trash.

Discussion: What advice do you have for Sue?

For a Spanish version of this activity, visit www.character.org.

SOURCE: Pinellas County Schools