

Alligator River

http://www.brefigroup.co.uk/resources/view_product.do?product=42&category_sname=free

"Once upon a time there was a woman named Abigail who was in love with a man named Gregory. Gregory lived on the shore of a river. Abigail lived on the opposite shore of the river. The river that separated the two lovers was teeming with man-eating alligators. Abigail wanted to cross the river to be with Gregory. Unfortunately, the bridge had been washed away.

"So she went to ask Sinbad, a riverboat captain, to take her across. He said he would be glad to if she would consent to go to bed with him before he takes her across. She promptly refused and went to a friend named Ivan to explain her plight. Ivan did not want to be involved at all in the situation.

"Abigail felt her only alternative was to accept Sinbad's terms. Sinbad fulfilled his promise to Abigail and delivered her into the arms of Gregory.

"When she told Gregory about her amorous escapade in order to cross the river, Gregory cast her aside with disdain. Heartsick and dejected, Abigail turned to Slug with her tail of woe. Slug, feeling compassion for Abigail, sought out Gregory and beat him brutally. Abigail was happy to see Gregory getting his due. As the sun sets on the horizon, we hear Abigail laughing at Gregory."

Following the story, rank the five characters from the most offensive character to the least objectionable. The character whom you find most reprehensible is first on the list; then the second most reprehensible, and so on, with the fifth being the least objectionable.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Discussion Questions (modified from OJA's VIA Curriculum):

1. Without revealing how you ranked the characters, how was this activity? Easy? Hard?
2. What kinds of things went into your decision?
 1. Outcomes (what happened as a result)
 2. Means (what a character did)
 3. Motivations (why they did what they did)
3. Did you consider ethics in making your decision? Which of these characters acted ethically? Which unethically?
4. What information was missing from the scenario that would have made this easier to do?
5. What are situations in real life that you have had to make quick decisions based on limited information? How did you come to those decisions?
6. What is an ethic?
 1. Good vs. bad
 2. Moral principles, guidelines
 3. Set of standards or guidelines to follow based on your values
7. Who decides what is ethical and what is not?
 1. Society
 2. Individuals
 3. Groups
8. Do ethics change depending on the situation?
 1. How might authorities affect a given situation? (QEP)
9. As you may know, our university is beginning a new initiative about ethical reasoning called the QEP. There are 8 key questions that we can use to help us navigate ethical situations in all aspects of our lives
 1. Show 8KQs
 2. How have you/could you use these questions in relation to the alligator activity? In your own life?
 3. Share example of how you have used it