

Dilemmas

What are 'dilemmas'?

People always make choices in life. That used to be true, it is still true today. These can be about politics, power, war, but also about everyday matters, such as friendships, conflicts with teachers or parents, at the sports club and the like. Sometimes those choices seem easy, often they are difficult. Then we speak of a dilemma. Someone who faces a dilemma has to choose between two evils. The Van Dale dictionary of the Dutch Language gives the following description of "dilemma": "a state in which a choice must be made between two paths that both present major objections; a tricky issue. "

We now start with that. Below you can see an assignment about a number of dilemmas that are not related to the war. Nevertheless, these kinds of dilemmas play an important role in the war and therefore in the lessons. Read the instruction carefully and then make your individual choice per dilemma. Explain that choice too.

ASSIGNMENT

Dilemmas

Below you will find four questions/dilemmas. Cross the choice you want to make today. At the end of each dilemma you will find the relevant question. Explain your choice in full sentences. Keep your work on the dilemmas carefully. We will return to them at the end of each theme.

Dilemma	Yes	No	Don't know	Explain your answer
1. Your teacher tells the class that all students who are not doing well in either English or math, have to go to extra, compulsory classes in this subjects, two afternoons a week between 14.30 and 17.00. For six weeks! The students who do not participate will not be promoted to the next year. School management decided this. You are one of these students. What are you going to do? Are you going to the classes or not? In other words: <i>Are you going to fight the rules you disagree with even when this causes huge problems for you?</i>				
2. You are studying for a history test. You are not very good at this subject. You need a sufficient grade for this test otherwise you have to re-sit the year. If that happens you will have to leave school and your parents will be very upset. How are you going to solve this? You could go to Peter for some help. He is top of the class for history. However, Peter is not really a friend. You always fight with him and he once hit your younger brother. Are you going to ask for his help with your history problem? In other words:				

Are you going to ask your worst enemy for help?

3.

You become friends with a boy of whom you know that he is an addict and who makes a lot of money dealing hard drugs. You like him because he is kind to you. You value his friendship but at the same time you realize that this friendship can be dangerous to you. You could become an addict or get into trouble with the police or all kinds of other drug problems.

Could you be friends with someone who almost certainly will cause you huge problems?

4.

One of your classmates is a fugitive from Syria. His results are not good enough to continue into the next school year. Nevertheless, the teachers take the decision is to make an exception and promote the student due to the special circumstances. How do you feel about this?

Do you think some people should be given more chances than others?