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Lesson 3: Ethics

1st Grade: Ages 6-7

Materials:

- *The Rainbow Fish*
- Paper

Timeframe:

- Introduction - 0-5
- Ethical dilemma discussions - 5-10
- Read the book - 10-18
- Book discussion - 18-23
- Final discussion - 28+

Lesson Goals:

- Introduce to children the topic of Ethics: What is it about and why it matters
- Inspiring students to think critically about the concept of fairness, justice, equity, equality, etc.
- Discuss various ethical problems that might be pertinent to students' day-to-day lives

Introduction (5 minutes):

- *Ethics*: what is it about? Fair from unfair, right from wrong. But it's more than that.
- What is fairness?
- What are rules and why do we follow them? Are they intended to maintain fairness? Do they succeed? Today we are going to focus on questions like these

Ethical Dilemmas: A discussion about hypothetical scenarios (8 mins)

***Introduce the big ethical questions by discussing scenarios that are age / life stage-appropriate and can be easily imagined***

- "Is it ever right to steal?" "If not, then how about in this scenario?"
  - Story of Robin Hood-type acts of theft that are intended for the "greater good"
- "Is it ever okay to lie"
- (optional: "Should we reshape society just because we can?" "Should we give animals the same rights as humans?")

*The Rainbow Fish* (6-8 minutes):

- Read the book
- Have some movement in acting out/engaging with the story

Discussion about the book (5 minutes):

- Main conflicts/ questions- movement activity: agree/ disagree
- Is it fair that the rainbow fish was born with all the beautiful scales and the other fish were not?
- Was it wrong for the rainbow fish to not share his scales?
- Was it fair for the blue fish to ask?
- Does the Rainbow Fish *have* to share his scales?
  - If you think he doesn't have to, *should* he?
- If you were the rainbow fish, would you give away your scales?
- If you were the blue fish, how would you feel?
- If you were the blue fish, would you ask for a scale?