

The courage to be a witness



I CAN RECOGNISE THE FEELINGS AND BELIEFS THAT AFFECT THE
BEHAVIOUR OF OTHERS WHEN WE BECOME A WITNESS

Think about the times you might have been in a situation when you saw something happen which was unusual, strange or even wrong and you knew you needed to tell someone.

Maybe you were unsure for a number of reasons.

Perhaps you thought people would laugh at you, not believe you, or you might get into trouble.

Read the story on the next slide and think about what you think Connor should say.

What should Connor say?

Connor was cycling home from school when he saw his elder sister, Kylie, with a group of young people. He knew some of them; they were tough and didn't care what anyone said to them. They were from the local secondary school, where Connor would be going in September. Connor got off his bike and hid behind a parked car where no one could see him. He was fond of Kylie, even though she was always telling him he was stupid. He knew it was only teasing.



As he watched, he wondered why he had stopped. Was it curiosity? Was he spying or was he really concerned about Kylie? He wasn't sure. Kylie was laughing. One of the girls offered her a cigarette which she took. Connor knew his parents would be cross if they found out. Kylie was only fourteen. He could see Kylie shaking her head and beginning to walk away, then another one of the group, a boy, held her arm and started arguing with her. Another girl pushed her, while another got hold of her bag. Kylie grabbed it back and started to run. The group let her go but shouted after her; "You'd better have the money tomorrow!"

Connor didn't know what to do. There were too many in the group for him to tackle. Kylie was walking home now. Connor got home first. His Mother asked him if he had seen Kylie on the way. Before he could answer Kylie arrived home.



SOME KEY QUESTIONS

Think about the questions below, you may want to discuss them with someone at home.

How do you think Connor felt?

As a witness to the incident what do you think Connor should do?

What are his choices?

Who do you think needs courage in this situation?

What do you think happened next?

What would you do?

Have you ever been in a situation where you have needed courage to witness? What happened?



ACTIVITY

Continue what you think might happen next in the story. What will Connor do?

You could use a storyboard format, including feelings and beliefs which might affect the behaviour of the characters.

Extension Activity – What would you do in Connors situation? Write down how you would act/behave and why.