

## Socratic Circle: Is It a Lie?

Read each question *carefully*, answer each question *completely*, and follow directions *closely*.

1. One day, Jackie saw their classmate vandalizing the school restrooms. Even though Jackie did not tell on their classmate, the principal for some reason suspected that Jackie saw one of their classmates vandalizing the restrooms. Yet when the school principal asked Jackie about whether or not Jackie had seen someone vandalizing the school restrooms, Jackie answered, “No, I did *not* see someone vandalizing the restrooms.”
  - (a) LOGIC: By giving that answer to the principal’s question, had Jackie been saying something *true* or something *false*? Explain.
  - (b) EPISTEMOLOGY: By giving that answer to the principal’s question, did Jackie *believe* that the answer was *true* or *false*? Explain.
  - (c) META-ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal’s question, was Jackie telling a lie? Why or why not? Explain.
  - (d) META-ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal’s question, was Jackie doing something *dishonest*? Why or why not? Explain.
  - (e) NORMATIVE ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal’s question, was Jackie doing something *immoral* (or *unethical*)? Why or why not? Explain.

2. One day, Jackie saw their classmate vandalize the school restrooms. Even though Jackie did not tell on their classmate, the principal for some reason suspected that Jackie saw one of their classmates vandalize the restrooms. Yet, Jackie was very forgetful. In fact by the time that the school principal asked Jackie about whether or not Jackie had seen someone vandalize the school restrooms, Jackie had entirely forgotten about seeing their classmate vandalize the school restrooms. Hence in response to the school principal's question, Jackie answered, "No, I did *not* see someone vandalizing the restrooms."
- (a) LOGIC: By giving that answer to the principal's question, had Jackie been saying something *true* or *false*?
- (b) EPISTEMOLOGY: By giving that answer to the principal's question, did Jackie *believe* that the answer was *true* or *false*? Explain.
- (c) META-ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Jackie telling a *lie*? Why or why not? Explain.
- (d) META-ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Jackie doing something *dishonest*? Why or why not? Explain.
- (e) NORMATIVE ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Jackie doing something *immoral* (or *unethical*)? Why or why not? Explain.

3. Chris, Sam, and Pat were classmates. Chris and Sam were friends, but Chris and Pat really disliked each other. One day, Chris saw Sam *and* Pat vandalizing the restrooms *together*. When the school principal asked Chris about who vandalized the school restrooms, Chris answered, "Pat vandalized the school restrooms!"
- (a) LOGIC: By giving that answer to the principal's question, had Chris been saying something *true* or *false*?
- (b) EPISTEMOLOGY: By giving that answer to the principal's question, did Chris *believe* that the answer was *true* or *false*? Explain.
- (c) META-ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Chris telling a *lie*? Why or why not? Explain.
- (d) META-ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Chris doing something *dishonest*? Why or why not? Explain.
- (e) NORMATIVE ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Chris doing something *immoral* (or *unethical*)? Why or why not? Explain.

4. Chris and Jackie are identical twins. In fact, they are so identical that sometimes even their parents have trouble telling them apart! Yet as cute as that might be, there was trouble. The twins were classmates of Sam. One day, Sam saw their classmate vandalizing the school restrooms. Yet even though Sam was convinced that Jackie was the vandal, the *actual* vandal was Jackie's identical twin Chris. Nonetheless, Sam was convinced that the vandal was Jackie (rather than Sam). Hence upon being asked by the school principle about who vandalized the school restrooms, Sam said, "Jackie vandalized the restrooms!"
- (a) LOGIC: By giving that answer to the principal's question, had Sam been saying something *true* or *false*?
- (b) EPISTEMOLOGY: By giving that answer to the principal's question, did Sam *believe* that the answer was *true* or *false*? Explain.
- (c) META-ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Sam telling a *lie*? Why or why not? Explain.
- (d) META-ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Sam doing something *dishonest*? Why or why not? Explain.
- (e) NORMATIVE ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Sam doing something *immoral* (or *unethical*)? Why or why not? Explain.

5. Chris, Sam, and Pat were classmates. Chris and Sam were friends, but Chris and Pat really disliked each other. One day, Chris saw Sam vandalizing the restrooms. Right before *Sam* vandalized the school restrooms, *Pat* was vandalizing the restrooms. Yet since *Sam* was the only student who Chris saw vandalizing the restrooms, Chris *mistakenly* thought that Sam was the *only* student who did so. Expecting to be questioned by the principal, Chris decided to frame Pat rather than snitch on Sam. Besides being Sam's homie, Chris really disliked Pat. Hence when the principal asked Chris who vandalized the school restrooms, Chris answered, "Pat vandalized the restrooms!"

(a) LOGIC: By giving that answer to the principal's question, had Chris been saying something *true* or *false*?

(b) EPISTEMOLOGY: By giving that answer to the principal's question, did Chris *believe* that the answer was *true* or *false*? Explain.

(c) META-ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Chris telling a *lie*? Why or why not? Explain.

(d) META-ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Chris doing something *dishonest*? Why or why not? Explain.

(e) NORMATIVE ETHICS: By giving that answer to the school principal's question, was Chris doing something *immoral* (or *unethical*)? Why or why not? Explain.

6. One day, Chris told a fairy tale to Sam and Pat. Of course, Chris knew that the fairy tale was fiction rather than fact. In addition to that, Chris knew Sam well enough to know that Sam also would realize that the fairy tale is fiction rather than fact. Yet at the same time, Chris *also* knew Pat well enough to know that Pat was gullible enough to think that the fairy tale was fact rather than fiction. By telling the fairy tale to Sam and Pat, Chris had hoped to fool Pat into thinking that the fairy tale was a true story.

(a) META-ETHICS: By telling the fairy tale to Sam and Pat, was Chris doing something *dishonest*? Why or why not? Explain.

(b) NORMATIVE ETHICS: By telling the fairy tale to Sam and Pat, was Chris doing something *immoral* (or *unethical*)? Why or why not? Explain.