

Exploring Moral Choices: The Dilemma of the Golden Compass

Learning objective: To articulate and justify personal responses to moral questions, considering diverse perspectives and ethical implications.

Read the opening passage and use the prompts below to structure your reflection. Use the word bank to help you express your reasoning clearly. Ensure you provide justifications for your opinions.

Max the monkey stood before the ancient, shimmering compass, knowing that he could use it to find the hidden treasure, but that doing so would mean disturbing the peaceful grove where the forest creatures slept.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · on the other hand · dilemma · ethical · integrity · implication · perspective · nevertheless · principled

1. Identify the core moral dilemma Max is facing. What are the two conflicting choices he must weigh up? (2 marks)

2. Explain why Max might feel tempted to proceed with his quest. Consider his character traits. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the potential short-term gain for Max against the long-term impact on the forest grove. (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were in Max's position, what would be the most ethical course of action? Support your decision with reasoning. (4 marks)

5. What might happen if Max chooses to ignore the needs of the forest creatures? Discuss the potential consequences. (3 marks)

6. Reflect on a time you faced a difficult choice between what you wanted and what was right. How did your values influence your final decision? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine a dialogue between Max and Leo the Lion regarding this dilemma. Write a transcript where Leo advises Max using the concept of 'duty of care'. How does Max's perspective shift after their conversation?