

Grade 8 Life Orientation Worksheet

Appropriate behaviour - case study

Passage and questions

It is no secret that Bongani and Katlego are not good friends anymore. They are quite similar in many ways – very competitive, good at sports, strong and popular. Their friendship was ruined a while back when Katlego ‘stole’ Bongani’s girlfriend, Thabita. To make matters worse, Katlego was made captain of the soccer team – a position Bongani dearly wanted. Every day that Bongani saw Katlego, it felt as though Katlego was mocking him with his eyes. Pretty soon Bongani was at boiling point.

Unfortunately, today was the day that the boiling pot erupted. Bongani went down to the soccer fields for practice. He was a bit early and bumped into Thabita, who was waiting at the fields for Katlego. They started chatting and laughing while sitting together on the grass.

When Katlego approached, he felt possessive and jealous. He threw the soccer ball hard onto the back of Bongani’s head and said, “Hey, stop chatting to my girl and go sort out the nets!” Bongani’s temper flared. How dare Katlego hit him in the back of the head? How dare Katlego order him around like a servant? How dare Katlego interrupt his conversation and try to belittle him?

As those thoughts flashed through his mind, Bongani was on his feet, grabbing at Katlego’s shirt and shouting at him. Katlego was shouting back, while Thabita cowered away from the terrible anger. With the boys pushing and punching and shouting at each other, the coach came running along and broke up the fight, which was not about to end on its own.

Questions:

1. Do you think that jealousy played a role in this conflict situation? Why? [3]
2. Do you think that pride played a role in this conflict situation? Why? [3]
3. Do you think that these boys should have resolved this conflict a long time ago? Why? [2]
4. Do you think one boy can ‘steal’ another boy’s girlfriend? [2]
5. Interpersonal relationships work best when both parties’ needs are met. That is not always easy, but with communication and compromise it can be done. Write a paragraph about how this situation could have been handled differently along the way. Try to think of behaviour that could mean that they could remain friends – even when things go wrong sometimes, or somebody makes a mistake. [5]

Total marks: 15

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Suggested Solutions

All questions require learners to give their own thoughts and answers, but guidelines are provided herewith.

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	3	Own answer. (YES. Jealousy played a role on both sides. Bongani was jealous that his girlfriend was stolen and that Katlego was made captain of the team. Katlego was jealous when he saw Bongani talking to Thabita.)
2	3	Own answer. (YES. Bongani's pride was dented because Katlego stole his girlfriend and on top of that was again the better man, winning team captain position. When Katlego threw the ball at him and bossed him about, behaving in a superior fashion, Bongani's pride suffered another blow. Katlego's pride got in the way when he saw Bongani talking to <i>his</i> girlfriend.)
3	2	Own answer. (YES. Because they were friends once. They are teammates and their aggression must be a problem for their team also.)
4	2	Own answer. (NO. Although it is not right to begin dating your friend's girlfriend, or for her to create this situation between friends. She is as much in the wrong, but she is not a possession and she has a mind of her own and therefore was not 'stolen').
5	5	Own answer.
Total marks: 15		