

Children's Dilemma

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I have made a short list to help our grade 4 - 9 students understand a common dilemma forced upon them. These are not very difficult, but hopefully it can make students think. I am listing some true statements about five well known figures. None of them have lived during most of our lifetimes. So no one would personally know the individuals. There are plenty of historic documents that anyone can learn about these individuals.

Person A: caused death to many for their religious beliefs and later became one of the most read authors of all time.

Person B: under his leadership much harm was done to groups of people but in later years helped the same group of people with the help of his boss.

Person C: this leader was punished for slapping a subordinate in the hospital. Later he helped liberate an unknown number of people.

Person D: as a young man he owned numerous slaves. As an adult he led many people to freedom.

Person E: he caused some people to die, but this person supplied many jobs to immigrants.

Different groups of people have recently been questioning the status of some well-known people. Would you permit some, none or all of the above to be publicly honored?

These individuals are: A, St. Paul; B, Christopher Columbus; C, Gen. George Patton; D, Moses; and E, Al Capone. Parents will have an opinion more based on their names. You have seen these people portrayed in movies and stories that many of our children have not been exposed to. Life experience helps us make up our minds and helps form our opinions. This is a great lesson for our students because these are typical responses by opposing sides. We hope students will learn that no one can have their life worth completely understood in only one or two sentences.