

2026-2027 Middle School Ethics Bowl Case Set

To learn more about this event, please visit:

<https://www.ethicsatkentplace.org/student-programs/middle-school-ethics-bowl>

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Case 4: Dinner or Dealbreaker?

Enzo and Andrea are rising high school freshmen who chose Fratelli's Family Restaurant for their first date. They both love Italian food. Andrea's family has been going to Fratelli's for years. In fact, her grandfather had been a chef there. Enzo spent the first 8 years of his life on his grandmother's farm in Italy and has fond memories of that time. He especially loved seeing the cows give birth and remembers the first time he saw the baby cattle.

The date was going well. Their conversation flowed naturally, and they both enjoyed their appetizers. Trouble arose, however, when Enzo asked Andrea what she wanted to order for her main dish. "Veal Milanese," she said enthusiastically, explaining that it had been her grandfather's signature dish. After he passed, she vowed to order Veal Milanese whenever she went to Fratelli's, in memory of him.

Enzo is shocked. Veal is baby cattle, and the thought of casually ordering such a dish is offensive to his most cherished childhood memories. He tries to explain this as tactfully as he can. Andrea doesn't see what the big deal is and points out that the veal is in the kitchen whether anyone orders it or not. This further upsets Enzo who says that their date is over if Andrea orders the veal. Andrea responds that Enzo should not be throwing around ultimatums. In the midst of this discussion, the waiter walks to the table and asks for their order.

Match Questions

1. Should Andrea order the Veal Milanese? Why or why not?
2. Is it right for Enzo to make this demand of Andrea? Why or why not?
3. If Andrea orders the veal, should Enzo follow through on his ultimatum and leave the restaurant? Why or why not?

Study Questions

1. Is it ever right to give an ultimatum, if so, when?
2. Is it ever right to go against your own deeply held beliefs to fit in with the crowd?

Is eating veal any different morally from eating other forms of meat?