

## **2023-2024 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 6: Farmer's Market Fisticuffs

Mona and Ava have been friends ever since they shared a dorm room in their freshman year at university two years ago. Despite their differences, they have become close over the years, but continue to argue about little things and often don't see eye to eye. Mona grew up in town in a family of fourteen all living in one house. Ava, an only child, grew up in a wealthy suburb. Though Mona feels that Ava is a true friend, she is often frustrated by the "out of touch" comments Ava often makes.

Every Saturday, the friends meet at the farmer's market to browse, chat, and drink coffee. Things become tense, however, at a stand selling cured meats. Ava excitedly fills her bag with prosciutto and bacon, smiling as the woman working the stand talks about the sustainable practices used to produce the meats. Mona is impressed by this farm's commitment to the environment, but also feels envious of Ava whose shopping bag is filling up while Mona herself stands by, empty-handed. As Ava pays for her purchase, she asks if Mona is going to buy anything. Mona laughs and says that these prices are a bit exorbitant for her, and that she buys her ground beef from Market Basket, a large local grocery store.

Genuinely troubled, Ava replies, "You really shouldn't buy the cheap stuff from Market Basket, you know. It's horrible what they do to those animals. I'd rather just eat vegetarian than put those cows through what those farms do to them." The two continue to argue, though Mona holds her ground, she is genuinely troubled by Ava's comments. . Mona loves animals and feels that her love for them has been questioned. She asks herself if Ava is right - should she just stop eating meat if she can't afford ethically-sourced products?

**Match Question: What should Mona do?**

### Study Questions

1. How much responsibility do people have to be "ethical consumers"?
2. When we buy something, are we supporting its production process?
3. Were Ava's questions appropriate? Would it make a difference if she phrased her ideas differently?
4. Does your stage in life make a difference in the ethics of eating meat regardless of how it was raised?