BLUEY EPISODE GUIDE

Spy Game

Grade 6 · Age 11

Episode Name	Spy Game
Season & Episode	Season 1, Episode 13
Age Group	Grade 6 (Age 11)
Key Concept	Empathy isn't just feeling for someone — it's the active choice to consider their experience before you act, and it changes the quality of everything you build together

ABOUT THIS EPISODE

Bluey and her friends set up a spy game — all covert operations, secret roles, and high stakes missions. Bingo wants in. Bluey, caught up in the excitement of the game she's built with her friends, excludes her. It's not cruel exactly — it's the familiar carelessness of being absorbed in something and failing to consider the person left on the outside.

When Bluey finally sees what her exclusion has cost Bingo — and what it's also cost the game — something shifts. The episode shows that bringing someone in isn't just the kind thing to do. It's also, often, the thing that makes what you're building better.

WHY IT MATTERS (FOR PARENTS)

By eleven, your child is navigating some of the most socially complex terrain of their life — shifting friend groups, emerging hierarchies, and the constant low-level pressure of inclusion and exclusion. They've been on both sides of this. They know what it feels like to be left out, and they've almost certainly left someone else out without fully registering the impact.

This episode makes that impact visible without being heavy-handed about it. Bluey's exclusion of Bingo isn't motivated by cruelty — it's motivated by enthusiasm and thoughtlessness, which is how most exclusion actually happens at this age. Empathy here isn't just feeling sorry for someone. It's the active choice to consider another person's experience before you act. That distinction — between passive sympathy and active empathy — is exactly what eleven-year-olds are ready to start working with.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (FOR YOUR CHILD)

1. *Bluey didn't exclude Bingo to be mean — she just got caught up in the game. Does the reason behind exclusion change how much it hurts? Does it change how responsible you are for it?*

2. *Have you ever been on the outside of something — a group, a conversation, a game — and noticed that nobody seemed to realise? What was that like?*

3. *What's the difference between sympathy and empathy? Can you have one without the other?*

4. *When you're deeply involved in something you care about, what makes it hard to notice the people around you who aren't included?*

AFTER THE EPISODE — ACTIVITIES & EXTENSIONS

Try one of these to keep the learning going:

- Ask question one and push into the distinction. If intention matters, how much does it matter? If you hurt someone by accident, are you less responsible than if you did it deliberately? Where does your child land? What does that say about how they think about accountability?
- Talk about question two from your own experience. Share a time you were on the outside of something — at work, in a social situation, at some point in your own childhood. Let your child see that this experience doesn't end at eleven. Then ask: what did you want from the people who were inside?
- Ask question three and work through the distinction together. Sympathy is feeling for someone from a distance. Empathy is imagining yourself into their experience. Ask: what does it take to actually do the second one? Is it harder? What gets in the way?
- Do a perspective exercise: pick a recent situation your child was involved in — at school, with friends, anywhere — and ask them to describe it from another person's point of view. What did that person probably experience? What did they probably want? What might they not have said?

Tip for parents: Bluey's exclusion of Bingo is incidental, not intentional — and the episode is careful not to make her a villain for it. That matters. Most exclusion at this age works the same way: it's the product of enthusiasm, absorption, and underdeveloped peripheral vision rather than malice. If your child has been excluded recently, this episode validates the hurt. If they've been the one excluding, it opens the door without accusation. Either conversation is worth having.