NAME

DATE

Hurtful Meme Dilemma

Directions

Part 1: Read the dilemma below.

Hurtful Meme
Maya saw that one of her friends, Luke, had "liked" a meme on social media. The meme showed a stereotype about people from Maya's background, suggesting they were all lazy and didn't contribute to society. The caption made a crude joke implying that they didn't belong in the country. As soon as she saw the meme, Maya felt uneasy. There were many students from that background at her school, including Maya herself. The racist content hit close to home. Plus, everyone could see that Luke had liked it. Luke was their class president, and the students had elected him to represent them. Maya also considered him one of her close friends.

Part 2: Read the dilemma again and use brackets to identify any examples of online hate speech. Then, follow the steps of Feelings & Options to help you think about what the characters in the dilemma can do to respond to hate speech.

Identify: Who are the different people involved in the scenario? What dilemma or challenge are they facing?

Feel: What do you think each person in the dilemma is *feeling*? Why might the situation be hard or challenging for each of them?

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Imagine: *Imagine* options for how the situation could be handled. Come up with as many ideas as possible: There's no one "right" answer! Then choose: Which option might lead to the most positive outcome, where most people feel good or taken care of?

Say: Thinking more about the idea you chose for handling the situation, what could the people involved say?

First: How would they say it?

- ☐ In person
- ☐ Call or FaceTime
- ☐ Text
- ☐ Direct/private message
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Other: _____

Second: What would they say? Write out the conversation.

Part 3 - Complicate (optional): Discuss these questions in your group, and share responses. Be sure to hear all perspectives -- the more perspectives, the better!

- What if, instead of just liking the meme, Luke had re-shared it?
- What if Maya learned that Luke was actually the creator?
- What if Luke was himself from a different country?
- Does it make a difference if Maya is from another country? Why or why not?
- What if this was part of a pattern -- if Luke was liking memes like this all the time?

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