LESSON PLAN

Wacky Media Songs: Ethics and Empathy

This lesson is part of USE, UNDERSTAND & ENGAGE: A digital media literacy framework for Canadian schools. http://mediasmarts.ca/teacher-resources/digital-literacy-framework

LEVEL: Grade K to 3

DURATION: 10-15 minutes per activity

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Matthew Johnson, Director of Education, MediaSmarts.

Overview

This lesson series contains discussion topics and extension activities for teachers to integrate the TVOKids Original series *Wacky Media Songs*. This lesson focuses on students' social-emotional skills and empathy towards others as well as their ability to make ethical decisions in digital environments when dealing with issues such as cyberbullying.
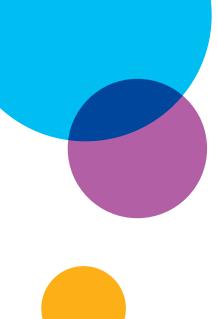
Learning outcomes

Students will:

- Understand that interactions through digital media can have a real impact

- Consider the possible positive and negative impacts of online actions

- Understand that how interactive media are made influences how we use them

- Reflect on ways in which online communication may lead to misunderstanding or conflict

- Identify strategies for resolving conflict and maintaining safety online

Preparation and materials

- Review the following *Wacky Media Songs* videos and prepare to show students the ones you wish to discuss:

  - Guess Who!

  - Let's Connect!

  - The Emoji Dance!

  - End It Now!

  - Check Before You Post!

Procedure

Each of the videos in this lesson has discussion prompts for before and after viewing the lesson. Some also have extension activities to follow the lesson.

After reviewing the videos, choose which ones you feel will be most interesting and relevant to your students.

GUESS WHO!

Ava's got some special co-stars in her song: the AVA-tars! An avatar is a kind of online mask that can protect your real identity. It gives you lots more privacy and helps keep you safe online. Sing along with Ava and her AVA-tars!

Before the video, ask: Do you know the word "avatar"? If not, what do you think it means? If so, have you made any avatars? How did you decide how it should look?

After the video, ask: Why might you want to use an avatar and a nickname instead of your real picture and name when you're online?

What are some ways you could tell the difference between a computer character and another player's avatar when you're playing an online game?

Extension Activity: If students play games like Minecraft or Roblox with friends that they know offline (in real life), talk about ways that they can play together without using the in-game chat. (For instance, they can use a kids' app like Messenger Kids or a video chat app like FaceTime while playing.)
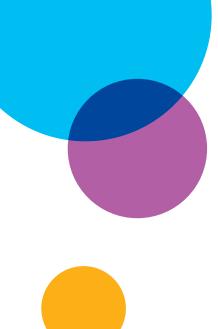

LET'S CONNECT!

Just like in real life, when we connect with online friends, it's important to show respect. Let's keep a positive attitude and not be rude! Make sure you feel safe and treat others well, and the fun will never end!

Before the video, ask: What are some ways that talking to people online is different from talking to them offline (in real life)?

After the video, ask: Think about a time when something that happened online was misunderstood – either by you or by someone else. How can we avoid hurting people's feelings by mistake?

Since we can't see people's facial expressions or hear their tone of voice online, what can we do to find out how they're feeling? How can we be more clear about how we're feeling?

THE EMOJI DANCE!

Sometimes words aren't enough to get your meaning across. That's where emojis come in. Words and emojis make a great team. Do the emoji dance with Ava and end it with a big happy face emoji!

Before the video, ask: Do you ever use emojis when you're talking online? What do you use them for?

After the video, ask: Could you sometimes send a message you don't mean to with an emoji? How could you avoid that?

END IT NOW!

Bullying in real life or online is always wrong! If it happens to you or a friend, it's important to speak up and tell someone you trust about it. That's how we can help end cyberbullying once and for all!

Before the video, ask: Have you ever seen anyone being mean to someone online? What happened? Do you think it hurts when it happens to someone?

After the video, ask: What can you do if someone is mean to you online? (Tell a parent, guardian or teacher.)

What can you do if you see someone being mean to someone else? (Contact them privately to tell them you think what's happening isn't okay, and ask if there's anything you can do to help. You can also tell a parent, a guardian, or a teacher.)

CHECK BEFORE YOU POST!

Uh oh. Ava posted a wacky pic of herself that her friends shared with everyone so now even her school's principal saw it! We can't control who will share our content with others and once it's out there, we can't take it back. It's always best to check with a grown up before posting!

Before the video, ask: Have you ever shared anything online that you with you hadn't? Has anyone else shared something about you that you wish hadn't been shared?

After the video, ask: When you share something online with friends, who else might see it?

What should you do before you share anything online?

What would you like your parents or other people to do before they share any pictures of you online?