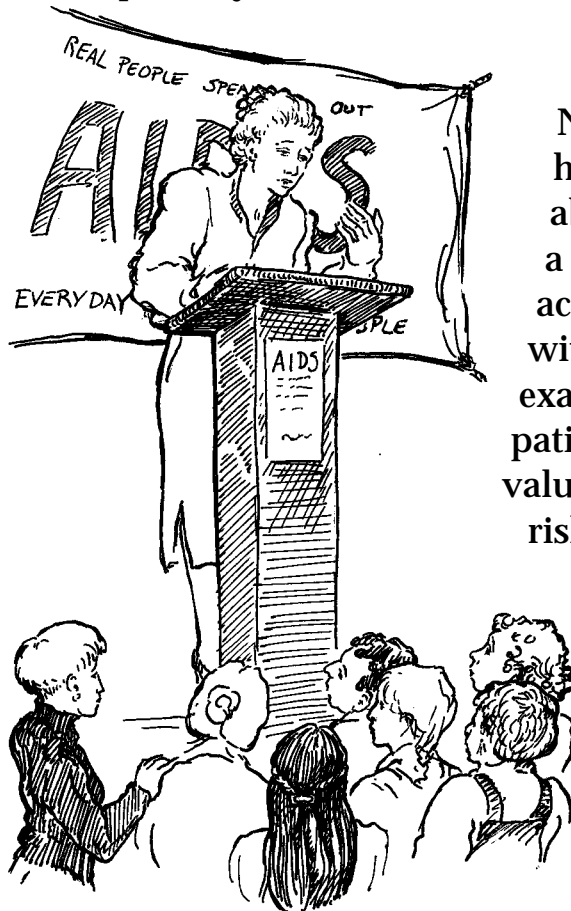




MORAL COURAGE WORKSHEET

There are all sorts of courage, just as there are all sorts of values:

- There's the courage shown by an athlete when she tries a gutsy play during an important game.
- There's the courage of a hot-air balloonist trying to be the first to fly around the world.
- There's the courage of a soldier who risks his life to save a buddy.
- There's the courage of an AIDS patient who decides to speak out publicly about the disease.



Not all courage is about moral courage, however. In the first two examples above, the courage shown is more about a decision to take a physical risk to achieve something that has little to do with ethics or morality. But in the last two examples, both the soldier and the AIDS patient chose to uphold their core ethical values even in the face of great personal risk. In fact, we would call the soldier a hero for risking his life for someone else. We would call the AIDS patient brave because she put the long-term interests of others ahead of herself.

DEFINITION: *Moral courage* is about choosing to stick to one's values in the face of opposition and the risk of great personal sacrifice.

► **CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES**

ROSA PARKS

In 1955, Rosa Parks decided she was no longer going to give up her seat on the bus if a white person asked for it. Her decision—and arrest—led to the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott and the eventual integration of buses everywhere.



► *Why is Rosa Parks’s action an example of moral courage?*

► *Is this the kind of person you would admire? Why or why not?*

WHISTLEBLOWER

Rick Broughton, a mechanic at a textile factory in Ohio, “blew the whistle” on unsafe conditions at the factory by reporting them to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). As a result, the factory’s managers and many of his co-workers treated him with hostility.



► *Why is Rick Broughton’s action an example of moral courage?*

► *Is this the kind of person you would admire? Why or why not?*

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST GANGS

*Fifteen-year-old Norvelle Smith from Chicago refused to join a local gang. Instead, she decided to spend her time speaking out against gang violence at school assemblies all across the city.**



► *Why is what Norvelle Smith did an example of moral courage?*

► *Is this the kind of person you would admire? Why or why not?*

Sometimes it takes moral courage to make, and act on, a tough ethical decision. Being morally courageous is part of being ethically fit—you have to practice doing the right thing if you are to become good at it.

**Story courtesy of the Giraffe Project.*