



Oops! I broadcast it on the Internet

case study 1

Emma's Secret Crush Goes Viral

After reviewing the case study below, discuss your answers to the discussion questions with your group.

Over the past few weeks, Emma has developed a huge crush on José. She thinks he might like her too. She knows gossip travels like lightning at school, so she tells only her best friend, Chantal, by texting her after school: "Do you think Jose likes me? I kinda have a little crush on him." Emma also swears Chantal to secrecy over the phone later that night. Though Chantal vows to keep her secret, she forwards Emma's text to Zeke, who forwards it to a friend, who...you know the rest! The next day at school one of the soccer players, Ted, texts Emma: "Emma+Jose=so adorable". Emma is shocked and embarrassed because she told only her best friend, and then swore her to secrecy.

If you were Emma, what would you do when you got Ted's text? Who, if anyone, is most at fault for spreading Emma's secret?

How would this situation be different if Emma had told her friends about the crush in person instead of by sending a text message?

How could Emma resolve or fix the situation herself? Is there a way she could make the situation better?

Has anyone ever shared information about you or someone you know over IM, text, the Internet, etc. that you wanted to keep private? If so, what did you do?