You’re invited to a party. Your friend isn’t. Should you go? **By Kristin Lewis**

**You’re invited to a party. Your friend isn’t. Should you go?**

You’re in a sticky situation, and the stress of what to do is keeping you up at night. Here’s the deal: You’ve been friends with Ella since third grade. You’re next-door neighbors. You both have a weakness for spicy chips. Everyone at school knows you two are besties.

But this year, you joined the track team. You’ve made new friends and are having a lot of fun, but it means you are spending less time with Ella. Recently, Ella has been making offhand comments about how much you care about her and explain that hurt Ella’s feelings. As you consider your options, it’s helpful to think about the dilemma from different perspectives, says Dr. Jana Mohr Lone, director of the Center for Philosophy for Children at the University of Washington. For example, you could ask yourself, “What will create the greatest good for the greatest number of people?” The answer to that question might seem simple: If you skip the party, Ella will be happy. If you go to the party, you and your teammates will be happy. But here’s where it gets tricky: If you go, could Ella’s unhappiness outweigh the happiness that you and your track friends will feel? Let’s find a different day and do something.”

You can also use the opportunity to ask Ella if the time you’re spending with your new friends bothers her and if it would be OK to talk about it. That way, you will both get a chance to open up about your feelings—which, in turn, could bring you closer.

And who knows? Perhaps Ella will be happy for you. Perhaps she’ll tell you to go have fun. And perhaps you’ll save her a cupcake.

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**What Would You Do?**

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**Different Perspectives**

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**I could . . .**

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<th>Possible outcomes:</th>
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Evaluate the options above. Then choose the one you think is best. State your opinion in one sentence. This can be your thesis statement for an essay on this topic.

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