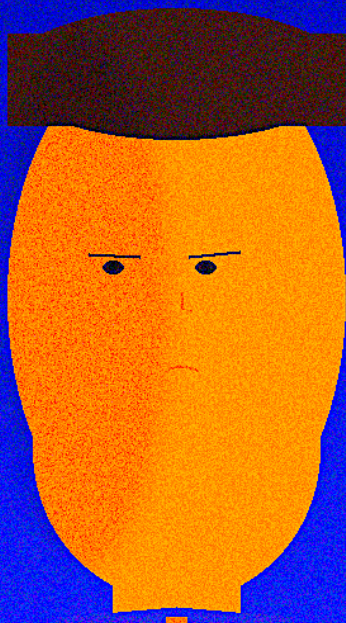
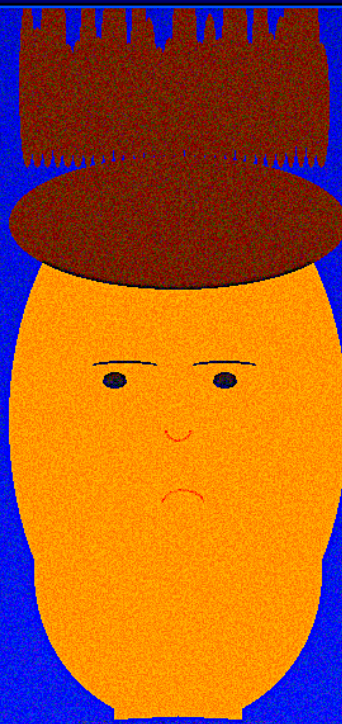




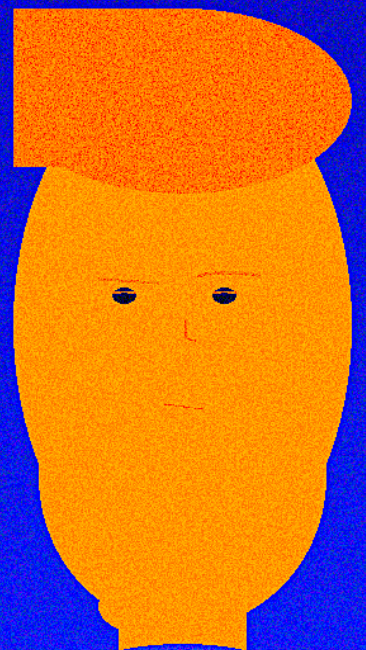
THE HUSBAND

The Absent One



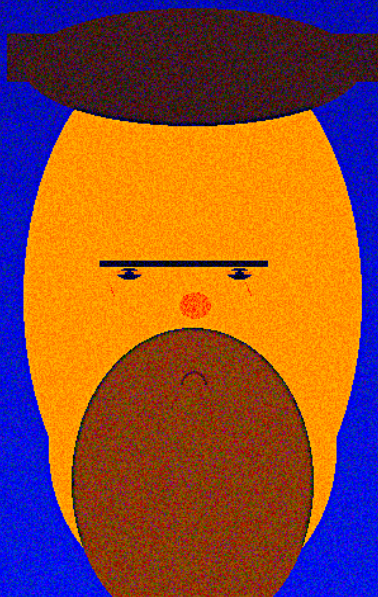
THE LOVER

The Silent One



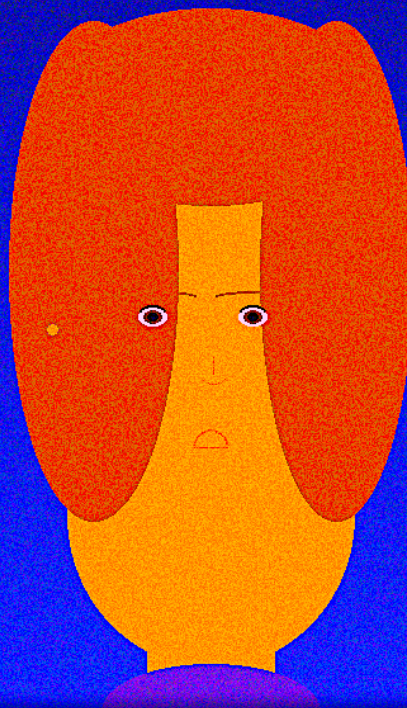
THE FRIEND

The Righteous One



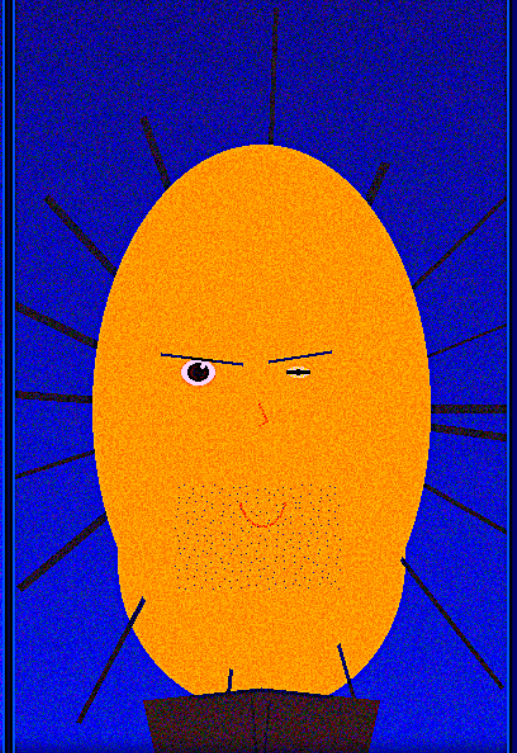
THE FERRYMAN

The Rule Keeper



THE WOMAN

The Bridge



THE MADMAN

The Force

THE RIVER CROSSING

A Mirror for Moral Judgment

FACILITATOR GUIDE

The River Crossing: A Mirror for Moral Judgment

Ethics & AI Integration | Training Session | Activity 2.3

Project No. 2025-1-CY01-KA220-HED-000351980

Duration	90 minutes
Participants	8 – 20 (ideal: 12)
Materials	A4 printed handout · Post-its (6 per person, one colour each) · Markers · Empty wall or flip chart board · Masking tape for 6 columns
Learning Goals	▶ Practise assigning responsibility under moral ambiguity ▶ Recognise how personal values shape ethical judgments ▶ Connect narrative ethics to AI design, deployment & governance ▶ Build tolerance for disagreement and structured argumentation

SECTION 1 — BEFORE THE SESSION

Room Setup

Prepare the wall before participants arrive. It should be visible the moment people walk in — this creates immediate curiosity and primes the room for moral engagement.

Wall Layout

Create 6 vertical columns with masking tape or flip chart paper.

Facilitator Tip



When each person has their own colour and writes their initials, the completed wall becomes a moral map — showing not just what was decided, but where disagreements cluster. This is your richest debrief material.

Label each column at the top:

- ▶ THE HUSBAND
- ▶ THE LOVER
- ▶ THE FRIEND
- ▶ THE FERRYMAN
- ▶ THE WOMAN
- ▶ THE MADMAN

Add a rank direction label on the left: Most → Least, Least → Most, or Free Choice. Decide in advance — **read the full guide before choosing.**

Post-it Preparation

Give each participant 6 post-its. Use a different colour per person so individual moral profiles can be tracked across the wall.

SECTION 2 — RUNNING THE SESSION

Full Timeline at a Glance

0:00 – 0:15	Welcome & framing — Why ethics? Why this story? Why now?
0:15 – 0:20	Read the story aloud as a group (handout distributed face-down)
0:25 – 0:40	Individual silent work — participants complete their classification
0:40 – 0:50	Post-it wall — participants write & stick their rankings simultaneously
0:50 – 1:00	Walk the wall — structured discussion, reading the patterns column by column
1:00 – 1:15	AI bridge — connecting each character to a live AI ethics principle
1:15 – 1:30	Closing reflection & harvest

PHASE 1 0:00 – 0:15

Opening & Framing

Begin with the room standing, not seated. This is a deliberate signal: we are not here for a lecture. We are here to think.

◆ SAY TO THE GROUP

"Before we discuss Artificial Intelligence, we need to discuss something much older — how we decide who is responsible when something goes wrong. The story I am about to share is not about technology. It is about us. And everything it reveals about us will tell you more about AI ethics than any definition I could give you."

Distribute the handout face-down. Do not let participants read it yet.

PHASE 2 0:15 – 0:20

Reading the Story

Ask for a volunteer to read the story aloud — or read it yourself slowly, with a deliberate pause at each refusal:

- ▶ Pause after: "He refuses to work without being paid in advance."
- ▶ Pause after: "He refuses without explanation."

- Pause after: "She disappointed him by behaving so badly."
- Long pause before: "The madman kills her."

These pauses are not theatrical. They give each failure space to land — and they create the discomfort that motivates genuine ethical engagement.

◆ SAY TO THE GROUP

"You have 15 minutes. Work alone. No discussion yet. Rank these six people and write your reasoning. Be honest — this reveals your values, and that is exactly what we are here to examine."

PHASE 3 0:25 – 0:40

Individual Classification

Participants work silently on their handouts. Your role as facilitator is minimal — but watchful.

What to observe:

- Those who finish quickly and confidently may be operating from a single moral framework — they will benefit most from being challenged.
- Those who struggle and cross things out are already doing the ethical work. Acknowledge this in the debrief.
- Those who look uncomfortable: this exercise surfaces real values around gender, loyalty, duty, and blame. Be ready to create psychological safety.

Timing



At 12 minutes, give a 3-minute warning. At 15 minutes: "Now take your 6 post-its. Write the name of each character on one post-it, and the rank you gave them in large letters. Nothing else. Go to the wall and place them."

PHASE 4 0:40 – 0:50

The Post-it Wall

Participants go to the wall simultaneously. This creates organised movement, side conversations, and visible surprise when two people place their posts in very different positions.

The Wall Dynamic

- Strong consensus on one or two characters (many rank the husband as #1)
- Radical disagreement on others — the woman and the friend often split sharply
- Complete divergence on the madman: some place him #1 (he pulled the trigger), others #6 (he has no moral agency)

This visual dispersion is the raw material of your debrief. Do not tidy it up. Do not average it. It is the most honest ethical map in the room.

◆ **SAY TO THE GROUP**

"What do you notice?"

Ask participants to step back and look at the wall in silence for 60 seconds before anyone speaks. Then ask the question above.

PHASE 5
0:50 – 1:00

Walking the Wall

This is the core of the session. Move column by column — not asking people to justify their choices, but to explain the principle behind them.

Column-by-Column Facilitation Questions

CHARACTER	FACILITATION QUESTION
THE HUSBAND	"Those who ranked him #1: what principle led you there? Is absence a form of action? Can neglect be as harmful as violence?"
THE LOVER	"He benefited from the relationship. Does benefit create obligation? Is refusing to explain worse than the refusal itself?"
THE FRIEND	"He used his moral position to justify inaction. Is that more dangerous than the ferryman's neutral rule-following? Can ethics become a weapon?"
THE FERRYMAN	"He applied a rule. The rule is fair. But the outcome is death. Do systems that apply rules without context bear responsibility for the outcomes?"
THE WOMAN	"She made choices. But every choice was inside a structure built by others. Is placing primary responsibility on the person with least power a pattern you recognise elsewhere — or in technology?"
THE MADMAN	"He killed her. He also has no capacity for moral choice. Can you be the immediate cause of death and the least morally responsible? Who is responsible for the fact that he was on the bridge at all?"

PHASE 6
1:00 – 1:15

The AI Bridge

This is the pivot that transforms a values exercise into professional ethics training. Do NOT rush to it — only move here once genuine moral discussion has happened. The bridge only works if participants have already felt the weight of assigning responsibility.

◆ **SAY TO THE GROUP**

"Everything you just argued about — structural negligence, rule-following without context, self-righteous inaction, exploited vulnerability, unaligned force — these are not just moral philosophy. They are the live design questions of every AI system deployed in the world today."

Map each character to an AI principle:

CHARACTER	AI EQUIVALENT	ETHICAL PRINCIPLE
The Husband	The institution that deploys AI without care or oversight	Duty of care does not end at deployment
The Lover	The tech company that extracts value without accepting consequence	Those who benefit must share in the risks
The Friend	The ethicist/regulator who withholds help citing principle	Moral authority must act under pressure — not protect itself
The Ferryman	The algorithm that applies rules without contextual judgment	Systems need human override at catastrophic decision points
The Woman	The end user blamed for structural system failure	User responsibility cannot be primary when the system itself is flawed
The Madman	The unaligned AI deployed without safety constraints	A system without ethical limits cannot be reasoned with — only stopped

PHASE 7 1:15 – 1:30

Closing Reflection

Return the group to the wall one final time. Ask them to look at the full pattern — every post-it, every column, every ranking — as a single image.

◆ SAY TO THE GROUP

"If this wall were an AI training dataset — if this was the moral reasoning being fed into a model to make decisions about justice, responsibility, and blame — what kind of decisions would that model make? Whose interests would it protect? Whose would it neglect?"

Close with a harvest question — one word or sentence per person:

- "What is one thing you will look for differently the next time you interact with an AI system?"
- "What is one question this session opened that you want to carry forward?"

Do not summarise or synthesise their answers. Let them hold their own conclusions. The diversity of the wall remains the final, best statement of the session's purpose.

SECTION 3 — FACILITATOR NOTES

Managing Sensitive Reactions

This exercise surfaces real values around gender, infidelity, blame, and structural power. Some participants will place the woman as the most responsible. Some will be angered by this when others disagree. Both reactions are valuable — and both deserve space.

Key facilitation principles:

- Never correct a classification. Interrogate the reasoning behind it.

- ▶ If the room becomes heated: "This discomfort is the exercise working. Ethical judgment is hard precisely because these questions are real."
- ▶ If someone feels personally targeted: pivot to the principle — "We are not judging the person. We are examining the framework they used."
- ▶ If consensus appears too quickly: "What would someone who ranked the woman #1 argue? Can we steelman that position?"

Connection to Erasmus+ Project Objectives

This session directly operationalises three core commitments of Activities 2.2 and 2.3:

Inclusive Pedagogies	The exercise has no correct answer, placing learners from all backgrounds on equal epistemic footing.
Critical Use of AI	The AI bridge phase builds the habit of asking who is responsible when AI systems fail — before it happens in practice.
Significance Mining	The exercise practises the judgment of what matters and why — the exact cognitive skill required to assess significance in heritage assets and in training data.

Sequencing Note



This session is designed as Session 1 in the 10-session training sequence — establishing the ethical vocabulary that all subsequent sessions build upon. Document participant responses and the diversity of rankings as qualitative data for the Joint Research Report.

Post-Session Documentation

- ▶ Photograph the completed wall before dismantling it — this is primary qualitative data.
- ▶ Note the distribution patterns for each character: where consensus formed and where it fractured.
- ▶ Collect handouts (with participant permission) for portfolio evidence.
- ▶ Record one or two standout participant quotes for the Good Practice Guide.
- ▶ Log which classification option (A, B, or C) each participant chose — this is itself a data point on moral reasoning style.