Read It Together

The Helper with the Notebook

What a program writes down while you use it, and why

You have agreed to nothing yourself. An adult did, or nobody did. This plate makes the collection visible without making it frightening.

The outcome is a habit, three questions before typing, not a fear of screens. Thirty-five minutes, no device.

Step 1 · The starter · 5 min

The helper

Imagine someone who follows you all day with a notebook, writing down everything you say, when, and where you were. How would you feel? What might they do with it?

Most programs on a phone are that helper. The notebook is data. The writing down is collecting.

Step 2 · Whole class · 8 min

What might a program record?

Build the list. What you type, when, for how long, where you are, what device, what you liked.

Add the one that gets missed: what you mention without meaning to. A friend's name, your school, your street.

Step 3 · Whole class · 7 min

Three sentences from a real policy

Read three sentences from the privacy policy of a service the class knows. One on what is collected, one on why, one on children. After each, say it in your own words.

The "why" usually resolves to advertising or "improving our services". Name both plainly. Free things are paid for somehow.

Step 4 · Pairs · 5 min

Three things, with reasons

Three things a service might collect, and for each, one reason it would want it. A list without reasons has not met the outcome.

The never-type list

And why each is there

Ask the room for the reasons before giving them.

> Never type: Full name with date of birth.
>
> **Together they identify you to anyone.**

> Never type: Home address.
>
> **It locates you when no one is with you.**

> Never type: Passwords; photos of yourself.
>
> **One opens everything; the other cannot be withdrawn.**

> Never type: Anything about another person.
>
> **It is not yours to give.**

Plenary · 10 min

Three questions

What does it collect? Why would it want that? Who agreed to it?

Say the last one twice. Under thirteen, the law requires an adult to agree first. This is why.

A pattern of late-night questions about a medical condition is informative regardless of the words. That is why "nothing to hide" is the wrong frame.

Next · Plate 6

Using it honestly

Everything the course has built, turned into one habit: the line at the bottom of the work.

For the adult in the room

Notes

The failure to guard against is "nothing to hide". The counter-example is the pattern, not the words: late-night questions about a condition say something whatever they say.

The opposite failure is alarm. Programs collect data the way shops have cameras. Matter-of-fact throughout.

Do not ask students which services they use or what they have typed. The hypothetical helper and the published policy do all the work.