

Moral conundrums

1. Lying to Protect a Friend

Your best friend cheated on a test. The teacher asks you if you saw anything. If you lie, your friend avoids trouble. If you tell the truth, they get punished. What is the right thing to do and why?

2. Stealing to Feed a Family

A hungry person steals food from a store to feed their family. They couldn't afford it, but now their kids can eat. Should they be punished?

3. Cheating to Help a Friend Pass

Would you help your friend by giving them the answers during a test because they were lazy and didn't study. It will help them pass. If you say no, would you help them if they were sick rather than lazy?

4. Skipping Homework to Help Someone in Need

You skip your homework to help an elderly neighbor who fell and needs help getting up and calling someone. What should your teacher do the next day when you don't have your homework ready?

5. The Secret Birthday Party

You've been planning a surprise birthday party. Your friend asks if you're hiding something. Telling the truth ruins the surprise. Lying keeps the fun going.

6. Helping a Stranger vs. Following a Rule

You're biking home and see someone who fell and might be hurt. But your parent said to come home right away, no stops. What do you do and why?

7. Saving a Pet vs. Obeying School Rules

You see your dog running into the street while you're at school. You'd have to break the "stay on school grounds" rule to help it. What to do?

8. Telling the Truth That Hurts Someone's Feelings

Your friend asks if you like their new drawing. You don't think it's very good. If you tell the truth, they might feel bad. If you lie, they feel happy. What would you do?

9. Skipping the Line to Help a Friend

Your friend feels sick at lunch, and the line is long. You help them skip to the front so they can sit down faster. Was that right and fair?

Debate

10. Saving One vs. Saving Five

Scenario: The Runaway Train

A train is out of control on the tracks.

Ahead of it are five workers who can't hear it coming.

You're standing next to a lever.

If you pull the lever, the train will switch tracks and avoid the five workers.

But on the other track is one worker who would get hit instead.

Questions:

- Would you pull the lever to save five people, even though one person would get hurt?
- Is it ever okay to hurt one person to help more people?
- What do you think is the most fair choice?

11. Spare Parts Conundrum

Scenario: The Hospital Dilemma

You're a doctor with five very sick patients.

Each one needs a different organ—like a heart, lungs, or kidney—and will die without one.

A healthy person walks into the hospital for a checkup.

If you take their organs (without asking), you could save all five sick patients.

But the healthy person would die.

Questions:

- Should the doctor take one life to save five?
- Would it be fair to the healthy person?
- What if the healthy person volunteered? Would that change your answer?

