

Dear Annie:

Should I tell on my best friend?

(1) DEAR ANNIE: I am a ten-year-old boy with a very important decision to make about my best friend.

(2) I am in the 5th grade this year. The trouble began when Megan brought her new spinner to school last week. A spinner is a toy that is supposed to relieve stress. I just use them for fun. It has a stable middle, and a disc with two to three paddles. The paddles are spun like a ceiling fan, and can be held in your hand.

(3) Most kids just have the standard two-paddle, plastic spinners. They come in basic colors like red, blue, yellow, and green. Megan’s spinner, however, is made of dark cherry wood and has three paddles. She made sure everyone knew she had it when she walked into the classroom last week. Everyone was quite impressed when they saw it. They begged her to share it.

(4) “No way!” Megan said with a look of contempt. “My mother told me to keep it to myself. She doesn’t want anyone to break it.”

(5) My best friend, Ricky, practically drooled when he saw it. He loves the wooden spinners. Cherry wood is difficult to find. He is saving up his newspaper route money, and is hoping to buy one soon.

(6) After social studies class, Miss Kelly, our teacher, instructed us to get ready for lunch. We put our supplies in our desks. Then we lined up with our lunches. I saw Megan push the spinner deep into the back of her desk. She didn’t want anyone to steal it.

(7) After lunch, I was in the hallway on the way back to class when I heard Megan’s scream. By the time I got to the room, Megan had picked up her desk and poured out its contents. She was sitting on the floor sifting through her books and supplies.

(8) “It’s gone! Someone stole my new spinner! Miss Kelly, call the police!” Megan yelled.

(9) “Hold on Megan,” said Miss Kelly. “That won’t be necessary.”

(10) Miss Kelly gathered us all together. She then gave the usual someone-must-know-something speech. She asked the person responsible to hand the spinner over as soon as possible. She also warned us that if we know something and do not come forward, we will get in trouble too.

(11) So, here’s my problem. Last night I was over Ricky’s house. He was talking on his cell phone. I thought I would get a deck of cards out of his desk drawer. He always keeps his cards in the second drawer from the top. So, when I opened it, guess what I found? I found a 3- paddle spinner in dark cherry wood. Once I saw it, I quickly closed the drawer. I sat on the bed and looked at the ceiling, so Ricky wouldn’t know what I discovered.

(12) What should I do? If I tell Miss Kelly, he will get into big trouble. He might lose his recess privileges, or get detention. Also, Ricky is a smart kid. It wouldn’t take him long to figure out that I told on him. Then, I would be left without a best friend.

(13) On the other hand, I don’t know if I can keep quiet about it either. My parents always told me to be honest and tell the truth, like Abe Lincoln.



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(14) Also, if I keep Ricky's theft to myself, I can get in trouble too. I don't want to get in trouble. I even changed the names of the people in this letter so that it couldn't be traced back to me or my best friend.

(15) Please give me some good advice, Miss Annie.

(16) WORRIED ABOUT A BEST FRIEND

(17) **DEAR WORRIED:** Your problem is not an unusual one. At some point in time, most people must decide between two difficult options. What you decide, however, will help to determine who you are, and what you stand for. You are fortunate to have such wise parents. Honor is a wonderful quality. You are also lucky to have a best friend. Good friends are hard to come by in life. But, you must be a good friend too. Would a best friend just sit by and let his friend walk down the wrong path? That is something to think about.

(18) It seems to me that there could be a way to keep your friendship, but also do the right thing. I think it is important to sit down and have a talk with Ricky. Tell him what you discovered, and encourage him to turn himself in. Let him know that you cannot keep this to yourself. Give him the opportunity to turn himself in before you speak to Miss Kelly. If Ricky is as good a friend as you are, he won't keep you in the middle of all this. He will do the right thing and turn himself in.

(19) Good luck to you, and I hope all goes well.

(20) Annie

(21) *Annie Fitzgerald is an advice columnist for the Oakland Regional Times. To contact Annie for advice, email her at AnneFitzgerald@ort.nik.*

1. Place an Identify the TWO facts from the passage to support why "Worried" should tell the truth.

 Ricky saw him open the desk drawer in his room.

 Ricky could end up in jail.

 It is the honorable thing to do.

 His parents will ground him.

 He could get in trouble for not telling the truth.

 Megan already knows that Ricky took the spinner.

2. Part A - Which is the BEST adjective to describe Megan?

- A. friendly
- B. hardworking
- C. spoiled
- D. lazy

3. Part B – Identify the sentence that BEST shows the adjective in Part A.

Megan's spinner, however, is made of dark cherry wood and has three paddles. She made sure everyone knew she had it when she walked into the classroom last week. Everyone was quite impressed when they saw it. They begged her to share it.

 "No way!" Megan said with a look of contempt. "My mother told me to keep it to myself. She doesn't want anyone to break it."

4. What motivated Ricky to take Megan’s spinner?

- A. He doesn’t like Megan.
- B. He wanted to make extra money by selling it.
- C. His friend dared him to take it.
- D. He always wanted a spinner like Megan’s.

5. According to Annie, “At some point in time, most people must decide between two difficult options.” Using context clues, what does the word “options” mean?

- A. events
- B. choices
- C. punishments
- D. friends

6. According to Annie, “If Ricky is as good a friend as you are, he won’t keep you in the middle of all this.” What does this mean?

- A. Ricky isn’t a good friend.
- B. Ricky doesn’t think that “Worried” is his friend.
- C. If Ricky is a good friend, he would share the spinner with “Worried”.
- D. If Ricky is a good friend, he would turn himself in.

7. What is the central idea of the passage?

- A. When given the choice, always choose the honorable option.
- B. A boy must make a difficult choice.
- C. People should be nice and share with others.
- D. When discovering a secret, always keep it to yourself.

8. During which paragraph would the reader find a definition for a “spinner”?

- A. Paragraph 1
- B. Paragraph 2
- C. Paragraph 3
- D. Paragraph 4

9. Identify three events that happened AFTER Megan screamed.

- “Worried” told Ricky to turn himself in.
- Megan brought the spinner into the classroom.
- Miss Kelly gave the class a speech.
- “Worried” saw the spinner in Ricky’s desk drawer.
- Megan refused to share the spinner.
- Megan told Miss Kelly to call the police.
- The class ate lunch.

10. Why did the parents of “Worried” mention Abraham Lincoln?

- A. because they knew “Worried” wasn’t telling the truth
- B. to emphasize the importance of telling the truth
- C. because they want “Worried” to start his homework
- D. to emphasize the importance of studying history