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Moral dilemma 5
THE STOLEN CAR

James is 18 years old. One day, he and a friend stole a car and planned to paint it, change the license plate, and generally fix it up so they wouldn't be caught. James tells his older brother Bill about the plan, and asks him not to tell anyone about it. His brother Bill wonders what he should do

- What should Bill do?
Why?
- Bill tells James to return the car, but James refuses. What should Bill do now?
Should he tell their father?
Why or why not?
- If Bill decides to tell their father, what should the father do?
Why?
- Suppose Bill knew the people from whom James had stolen the car. Should that make a difference in his decision?
Why or why not?
- According to the law, a citizen is required to report any crimes he may know about. What do you think the purpose of the law is?
- Should the law require you to turn in a relative?
Why or why not?
- What about turning in a friend?
Why?
- Should decisions about whether to turn in someone be left up to the judgment of the individual?
Why or why not?
- Can you think of a good reason why a decision to turn someone in should not be left up to an individual?
- Suppose the crime committed by James and his friend considered to be a felony under the law. Would you consider Bill (and their father if he knows) to be an accessory?
Why or why not?