

Help I've got a dilemma!

The dilemma

You are stuck in a burning building with your Grandfather and a leading scientist who has just discovered the cure for cancer. He is the only person with the cure and has not written it down. Neither of them can escape without your help and you are only able to save one of them. Who would you save?

Utilitarianism

This was a method of decision making created by Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill. They said that when you are thinking about making a decision you need to decide on 'the greatest good for the greatest number' in other words, the decision you make has to be in the best interest of the majority of people.
What would a utilitarian do in this dilemma?
Can you think of any problems with making your choice in this way?

Situation ethics

A man called Peter Singer decided that we should only have one rule when making moral decisions. This is that you should do the most loving thing.
Can you decide what the most loving thing to do would be in our dilemma?
What other questions might you need to answer to decide what is the most loving thing to do?

Conscience

Some people say that the only thing that you need to do when you are making a decision is to listen to your conscience. If what you want to do makes you feel guilty, then it is wrong.
Can you make a decision on this dilemma just using your conscience?
Can you think of the advantages and disadvantages of using your conscience?

Your View

1. What do you think is the best way to make moral decisions?
2. Why do you think people come to different conclusions about what the best way to behave is in a particular situation?