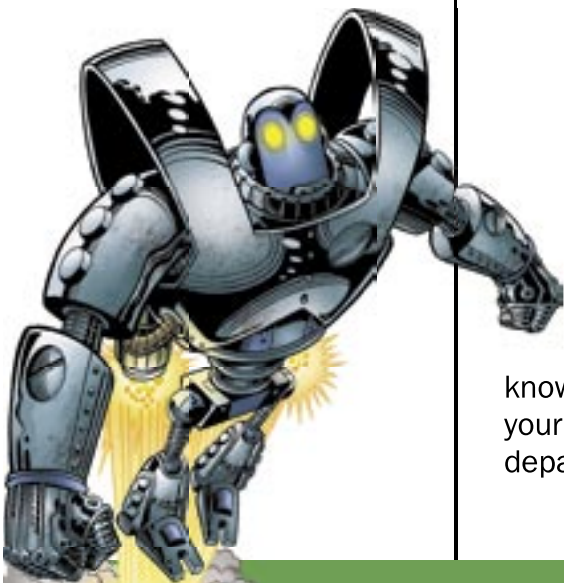


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15



Secrets

When to Tell and When Not to

Do you remember sharing your secret crush with your best friend as a teenager? Secrets. Even as adults, we have them, and our friends ask us to keep them. Mostly they're fun, wishful things like your dream vacation to Bermuda.

But not all secrets are fun and fanciful. A student may tell a friend a secret that shouldn't be kept. It's important to teach your kids which secrets they can keep and which ones they should tell a trusted adult.

What to know about breaking the vow of silence ...

- If the secret puts someone in danger, tell. (i.e., alcohol, cigarettes, or drug use, violent behavior, etc.)
- If the secret includes past or current abuse, tell.
- If an adult asks you to keep a secret and that secret is inappropriate, tell an adult you trust.
- Your friend may be mad at you for awhile for betraying his/her secret. That's okay. It's more important you get that person the help he or she needs. Time will pass and the anger will subside. It is better for your friend to be angry with you and get help (or stay alive) than for you to keep your mouth shut and your friend end up getting hurt (or worse).

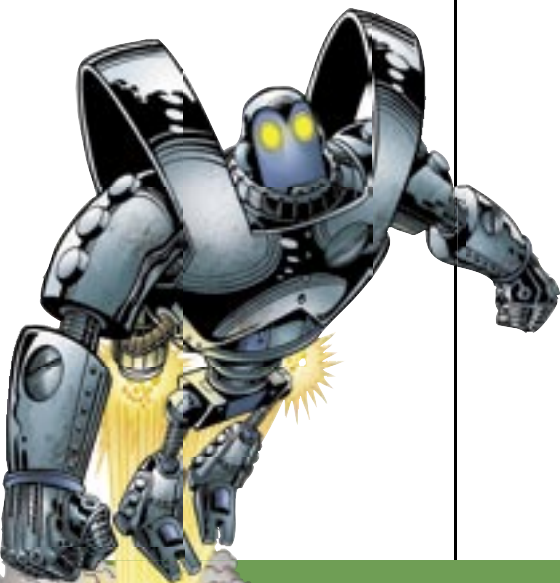
Too often we neglect to talk about these things. By taking the time to discuss these things with your kids, you open the door for them to talk to you about things like this. Be ready. If a child were to come to you with a situation, would you know where to go? Depending on the situation, start with your pastor, a Christian counselor, or even your local police department.



Holsom Comics Discussion Questions

After kids have read [Welcome to Holsom. Issue 15](#), begin a discussion about secrets by asking these questions:

- Was Noah's reaction to Shelby right? (*No. Even though it's understandable anger, he shouldn't have blamed Shelby for what happened.*)
- Should Noah or Shelby have told someone about the robot? Why or why not? (*Answers will vary.*)
- Jorge and Mouse ran away in a moment of panic. Was their choice to run away the right one? (*Answers will vary.*) Why or why not? (*Answers will vary.*) If their choice wasn't a good one, what could they have done differently? (*Answers will vary.*)



Top Secret?

Ask your kids to brainstorm with you. Ask them to come up with situations in which they need to tell a trusted adult a secret they were told to keep. You might also consider brainstorming exactly who they should tell (pastor, counselor, police officer, etc.).

