What is a secret?

Jot down, privately, what you think the definition of a secret is:
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Now, think of a big secret that you've kept which has subsequently been found out. It needs to be a secret which does not reflect well on you - not a birthday present, or a surprise party - a secret that, for personal reasons, you would rather others did NOT know about.

With this in mind, try to answer these questions:

1) What were the reasons you had for wanting to keep your secret?

2) What were the consequences when the secret was found out?

3) At that time, what would you have paid or given to ensure that no-one ever found out about your secret?

Now, with a partner, and with your own secret still in mind, make notes on these ideas:

1) Which people in society tend to know a lot of ‘secrets’? Doctors would be one example.

2) How do these people guarantee they will keep these secrets?

3) What can the consequences be when these secrets are found out?

As a class, discuss the importance and value of secrets in society. Are there some secrets that should never be told? If a secret is never told, is it still a secret?

Individual work: personal writing

Think back on your original secret. Write two paragraphs which explore your feelings about keeping the secret, and about when it was found out. You could start your work: ‘All the time I kept the secret I felt as if I had a …’