the heinz dilemma

Heinz’s wife was dying from a particular type of cancer. Doctors said a new drug might save her. The drug had been discovered by a local chemist, and Heinz tried desperately to buy some, but the chemist was charging ten times the money that it cost to make the drug. This was much more than Heinz could afford.

Heinz could only raise half the money even after help from family and friends. He explained to the chemist that his wife was dying. He asked if he could have the drug cheaper or if he could pay the rest of the money later.

The chemist refused. He said that he had discovered the drug and was going to make money from it. The husband was desperate to save his wife, so later that night he broke into the chemist’s and stole the drug.

1. Who is the victim in this story?
2. Should Heinz have stolen the drug?
3. Should the police arrest the chemist for murder if the woman dies?
4. Would your answers remain the same if you were the chemist Heinz stole from? Why is it important to consider this?