PRACTICING HONESTY

BRAVE PEOPLE TELL THE TRUTH

ED U. GATOR FINDS A THIEF

A GREAT MILITARY LEADER
It's great when people say nice things about us. We all like to get compliments from time to time, about the way we look or the way we act. It feels good when someone says “you look pretty today,” or “what a beautiful painting,” or “great hit,” or “you did a really good job of cleaning up your room,” or “I love you so much.” Do you know what's one of the nicest things people can say about you? That you are honest! Being an honest person is one of the most important things you can ever be. Because when you're honest, you're dependable, trustworthy and responsible. When you're an honest person, people know they can count on you to do the right thing. They also know that if they ask you a question, you'll tell them the truth! Sometimes that's not the easiest thing to do. Did you ever break something or spill something by accident? You might have thought, “If I don't say anything about it, no one will know I did it.” But you know what? That's not the right thing to do. And it's certainly not the brave thing to do. And you know what else? Somebody always finds out. If you tell the truth, even when it's hard, it shows you respect other people. It also shows you respect yourself! Anyone can tell a lie. But the bravest, most caring and most responsible people tell the truth. And that's the truth about honesty!

**VOCABULARY:**
- **Compliment**: something said that shows praise.
- **Dependable**: reliable.
- **Trustworthy**: deserving to be trusted.
- **Responsible**: able to be trusted or depended on.

**ACTIVITY:**
We said that an honest person is someone who does the right thing, tells the truth, cares for and respects others and respects himself or herself. Can you think of someone you know who is an honest person? Then take a moment and think about yourself. Are you an honest person? I bet you are!
ED NABS THE LUNCHBAG BANDIT

Hi, friends. Ed here. Something terrible was happening at our school. Someone was stealing lunches! Last Thursday, Franklin’s lunch got nabbed. Tuesday it was Gabe’s. Our principal, Mrs. Gloria, made an announcement over the loudspeaker. She asked us all to be honest, and asked whoever was stealing to tell the truth. But no one said a word, and the lunches just kept disappearing!

Yesterday, ol’ Ed here solved the mystery, by accident. I was late coming into school because mom’s car wouldn’t start. When I got there, the halls were empty. I was walking to the office with my late note when I saw someone hanging out by the lockers. It was a girl gator named Angie, and she was taking a lunchbag from my friend Alice’s locker!

At first I didn’t know what to do. I thought about telling a teacher or the principal, but I didn’t really want to be a tattle tale. So I quietly walked up to Angie and asked her what she was doing. She nearly jumped through the ceiling! She took a few seconds to answer, and then she said she had lost something. I said, “Did you think you would find it in Alice’s lunch?” Then Angie started crying. She told me her mother couldn’t afford to give her lunch money every day, and that she often went hungry all afternoon. She said she knew it was wrong and dishonest to take someone else’s lunch, but she didn’t know what else to do.

I reached into my pocket. Luckily, I had a dollar left from this week’s allowance. So I gave it to Angie. Then I told her I thought she should tell Mrs. Gloria that she was the lunchbag bandit. Angie said, “But I’ll get in so much trouble!” I told her that if she was honest and admitted stealing the lunches, Mrs. Gloria would probably understand.

Then I offered to go to the office with her, since I still had to take my late note there. I didn’t stick around to hear what happened, but later on the playground Angie thanked me for my help and my money, and told me Mrs. Gloria had a special program for kids who couldn’t afford to buy lunch. Then Angie did a very brave thing. She told Alice, Gabe, Franklin and all the other kids that she was the one who had taken the lunches.

Then she whispered something in my ear. She said, “You know what Ed? It feels good to be honest. Thanks for not telling on me, and thanks for being my friend!”

QUESTIONS

1) When Mrs. Gloria found out someone was taking lunches, she made an announcement. What did she ask the kids to do?

2) How did Ed accidentally catch the lunchbag bandit?

3) Why had Angie been stealing lunches?

4) Why did Ed decide to talk to Angie, instead of telling on her?

5) Ed did several things to help Angie. Can you think of one?

6) How did Mrs. Gloria help Angie?

7) Why did Angie feel better about herself?
JOIN THE SEARCH FOR HONESTY AND TRUTH

Directions: In the block below there are hundreds of different words. Put on your detective cap, and see how many times you can find the words TRUTH and HONESTY. You might need to use a magnifying glass! Good luck!

BICYCLE GREEN LUNCH GATOR TRUTH FAIL SCHOOL MOTHER APPLE HONESTY DANCE BASEBALL TEACHER HOUSE ONION STICK TURTLE COUSIN TELEVISION TRUTH POTATO COSTUME PLAYGROUND HONESTY, PEOPLE SEARCH LIES TRUTH PEOPLE FUNNY BAD AMERICAN FATHER BROTHER HONESTY LIES DETECTIVE LIES GOOD AFTERNOON HOW ARE YOU FUN HELLO COMEDY FUNNY LAUGH GOODBYE RADIO DOLPHIN LION TIGER HONESTY CHIPS TRUTH MASK HOLIDAY VACATION WEAR HOME BACK IT PANTS UNITED HONESTY STATES JUSTICE TRUTH HONESTY CARBOOTS MONEY ZOO ROAD COMPUTER WITH PICTURE HUNDRED SEARCH TRUTH LIGHT SHELF BABY CUP SPON FORK GRASS TREE HONESTY FOOTBALL SPORTS NEWS MOUSE STRIPES SHOES CHAIR DOOR HAT STAND YOURSELF FACE TRUTH SEAT JOIN MIGHT AWAY SPANISH VANDERBILT TENNESSEE HONESTY BASEBALL DINNERS PAPER AWARD TELEPHONE BUTTONS DSK TREE CONTACT HONESTY TRUTH CAR FLOWERS BIRDS SPOON CANDE NAPKIN HONESTY FIND DIFFERENT DICTIONARY PART TEETH DOCTOR BUILDING FIVE IS DOOR FRONT BACK SIDE UP DOWN HONESTY TRUTH FUNNY BAD HAPPY MAD OFFICE TEACHER FRIEND SISTER HONESTY RECORD TAVE LINE POST MAILBOX JUSTICE SCHOOL TRUTH OASIS HUSBAND WIFE TREE LEAVES CELERY GRAPES HONESTY GOODBYE HELLO HONESTY GIRL BOY CONTACT THOUSAND DESK TRUTH PICTURE HONESTY FOOD MONEY

MAKE YOUR OWN 'I AM TRUSTWORTHY' BADGE

Directions: If you're honest, dependable and responsible, then you deserve to wear this I AM TRUSTWORTHY Badge. Color it in and wear it proudly!
IN THE NEWSPAPER

Directions: Sometimes in the newspaper, and many times in the magazine section of the Sunday paper, you'll find a story about a kid or an adult who has done something extraordinary to help others. Chances are, that person was trustworthy, dependable and honest! Look through the paper with an adult and try to find one of those stories, then read it together.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR ONE GOOD HONESTY PERSON

Directions: Could that person be you? I think so! You've searched for TRUTH and HONESTY, you've colored in your TRUSTWORTHY badge, and you've read about another good honest person. Now draw a picture of YOU below. Make sure you show on the face what it feels like to be honest, trustworthy and dependable!
One morning before school, Jamessa was eating breakfast with her mom and dad. Her mom had made Jamessa’s favorite: waffles and grits, and she gobbled up every bite. When her Dad was done he got up from the table, put on his overcoat and kissed Jamessa and her mom goodbye. While he was walking out the door he said the same thing he said every morning: “Well, I’m off to do an honest day’s work!” Even though she had heard those words a thousand times, Jamessa realized she didn’t really know what they meant. So she asked her mom. “Mom,” she said, “what does Dad mean by an honest day’s work?”

“Jamessa,” her mom replied, “your daddy is a very hard-working man. He’s really good at what he does, and many people depend on him. He is honest as the day is long, and you should be very proud of him.”

“Oh I am,” said Jamessa.

Jamessa got on the school bus with her friends. She was determined that day to do an “honest day’s work.” When she got to school she sat at her desk very quietly, and listened carefully to her teachers. She tried extra hard to write neatly in her journal. She paid attention to every word at story time, so she could answer all the questions correctly. At lunch time and recess, she looked for opportunities to be helpful and considerate, so her friends could see she was caring and dependable. She tried each time to think before she acted, so she could make good choices and do the right thing.

When she got home that afternoon, she felt proud of herself, but she was very tired, too. She decided to go upstairs to her room and take it easy. When her mom got home from work, she found Jamessa lying on her bed, fast asleep. She sat there for a while, just looking at her beautiful daughter. Then Jamessa slowly opened her eyes. “Are you feeling okay?” her mom asked. “Yes,” said Jamessa, “I’m just a little tired. It’s hard work being honest, trustworthy and dependable all day long!” Her mother laughed, remembering their conversation that morning. “Did you do an honest day’s work?” she asked Jamessa. “Yes ma’am, I think so,” said Jamessa. “Well,” said her mom, “I am sure you did. And I am very, very proud of you!”

— By Ned Andrew Solomon
COLIN POWELL

Colin Powell is one of this country’s greatest military leaders. He was born in New York City in 1937, the son of Jamaican immigrants. He studied at the City College of New York, and served two separate times in the Vietnam War.

After the war, he held several important and responsible positions in the military. He was so well regarded for his knowledge and abilities, President Reagan asked him to be the nation’s security advisor in 1987. In 1989, he was promoted to four-star general, which is an incredible honor! He became the first African-American to hold the nation’s highest military post: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He later played an essential part in the wars in Panama and the Persian Gulf, which was also known as Desert Storm.

Powell has always been known and respected for his honesty and trustworthiness. He has become one of the best-loved figures in the United States. Because he has proven to be so responsible and dependable, many people were hoping Powell would run for President of the United States. But Powell decided he was not interested in that job for the time being, choosing instead to stay close to his family and friends.

VOCABULARY:

Military: having to do with the army.
Leader: a person who guides others.
Immigrant: a person who moves to another country to live.
Regard: to show respect.
Security: the condition or feeling of being safe.
Advisor: a person who gives advice or opinions.
Essential: necessary.
TIPS

1) Encouraging honesty in your child promotes a wide range of positive behaviors, including self-respect, respecting others, acting responsibly and dependably, and making the right choices. Treat the issue of honesty with the weight it deserves. Condoning dishonesty can have a negative and lasting effect on your child's social interactions.

2) Another aspect of honesty is being true to yourself. As your child gets older, he/she will become more and more susceptible to the influences of peer pressure. Remind him/her to stick to the values you've instilled, regardless of what the kid down the street “gets away with.”

3) Be aware of how you model integrity in your own daily life. Do you often make excuses to people on the phone or in person that are untrue? Do you tell your child things that aren’t true to ease out of a difficult situation? Little white lies are dishonest, no matter how you rationalize them. Remember that your child learns a great deal from your actions, good and bad.

4) Television shows and videos are a big part of most family’s lives. It is possible however to take opportunities to learn from situations portrayed in these programs. The whole range of human nature is on display. Discuss why certain characters acted honestly or dishonestly, responsibly or irresponsibly.

RESOURCES

Seuss, Dr. Horton Hatches the Egg. Random House, 1940.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

There's nothing like good old-fashioned role-playing to get a point across and have some fun! Pick a time when the family can get together and “create” some situations that involve being honest and trustworthy. You might think about a valuable object getting broken or lost, a child cheating at school, or one sibling “telling” on the other. Discuss how your child might act in these situations, and just as importantly, how you might “react.” If your child comes to understand that you value honesty, regardless of the “crime” committed, it may help in future predicaments.

FAMILY PLEDGE CARD

Our family has completed the Family Page together.

______________________________
Child’s name

Family members:

______________________    ___________________
______________________    ___________________

School: ___________________________________

Teacher/grade: ___________________________________

For more information about Projects: Solution, call 726-8918 or 1-800-351-1227, ext. 8033 or 8918.