

Andrew Lyons

Mrs. Martinez & Mrs. Frampton

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Being a Sidekick

What weighs six ounces, sits in a tree, and is very dangerous? This question, posed to Batman and Robin in an episode of the 1960's Batman series, was one of the Riddler's dastardly schemes. Batman could only figure out what crime the Riddler was planning if he could decipher this puzzling riddle. Only with the help of his trusty sidekick Robin was Batman able to find the answer and stop the villain in his tracks. The answer to this riddle is, of course, "a sparrow with a machine gun". Sidekicks are essential to every hero's story. Harry Potter would not have made it past book one without Ron's chess mastery and Hermione's spell expertise. Shelob would have killed Frodo without Sam intervening. Every hero has a moment of weakness, and that is when the sidekicks are needed most.

In stories and at Maeser, the main character should never be left to fend for themselves, whether they are trekking up the cliffs of Mount Doom, or cramming for a brutal AP exam. No one should bear the weight of high school on their own, and no one has to. There are so many people willing to help and guide you through this four-year epic journey. Parents, teachers, classmates, and friends are all there to help every student complete their story and defeat their dark lord.

Some sidekicks are strong, some are smart, and some are just there for comedic relief, but anything a sidekick contributes, whether big or small, is significant. It was the fall of 2017 when my grandfather died from an unexpected stroke. At his funeral, I was sitting alone on a bench

feeling glum when a sweet man came over and sat next to me. I kind of knew him, but not very well, and I didn't want to talk to anyone. He simply reached up to his collar and undid his orange tie. He folded it neatly, handed it to me, and told me to take it. The color orange is very significant in the Netherlands where my grandfather is from, and this nice man gave me his tie so I could remember that forever. I took the tie in my shaking hands and tears started to stream down my face. He just smiled and went on his way. I will never forget how he saw that I needed help and was there for me even when I didn't ask for or even want, his help. That is truly what being a sidekick means.

We can be the loyal Ron Weasley in many other stories. We can be the ones to remind others of their worth, goals, and purpose. You will always be the main character of your story, but trying your best to be the sidekick in others' stories will make your high school experience so much more fulfilling. You might not be able to solve the Riddler's puzzles, but often something as simple as an orange tie is all you need to save the day.