

Trustworthiness

TRUSTWORTHINESS means being honest, reliable, and truthful.

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Explain that a trustworthy person keeps promises and would not intentionally cause harm. Write the following key words on the board: **1) Honest, 2) Reliable, 3) Truthful, 4) Keeps Promises, and 5) Not intentionally cause harm.** Ask students to answer the following questions and identify which principles of trustworthy behavior either apply or are missing.

- **Would you trust a friend who promised to pay you one million dollars if you let him or her copy your homework?** (1, 2, 3, and 4: dishonest, unreliable and couldn't keep the promise.)
- **Would you trust your friend who accidentally broke your pencil, apologized, and offered to bring you a new one?** (1, 2, 3, and 5: showed honesty and truthfulness by telling you, did not intentionally break it.)
- **Would you trust a neighbor to borrow your bike if you had seen him deliberately break someone else's bicycle?** (3, 4, and 5: not truthful, might intentionally damage your bike.)
- **Would you trust a classmate who likes to gossip and doesn't keep secrets?** (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: gossiping breaks every rule of being trustworthy.)

As time allows, ask students to explain their answers. Ask students to try to apply this thought process to their actions to build a foundation of trustworthiness in their lives.

***School/Home Link** Ask students to talk to a family member about being trustworthy.*

LESSON 2

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Tell students to pretend they each have one hundred dollars. Ask students to write the names of three people they would trust to hold it for them and why they trust those people. Read the following statements and instruct students to raise their hands if it is a good reason to trust them. Read: **1) I trust them because of where they live. 2) I trust them because they lied to me. 3) I trust them because they eat jellybeans. 4) I trust them because they have always told me the truth. 5) I trust them because they can sing. 6) I trust them because they are my friends.** Emphasize that they should place their trust in someone who is honest and truthful in all situations. Ask students to answer the following question: **Could someone trust YOU to hold a hundred dollars?** Ask them to explain why or why not.

***School/Home Link** Ask students to talk with a family member about placing trust in people who are honest.*

LESSON 3

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Read: **Imagine what it would be like if everyone in the whole world was trustworthy. No one would have to lock their doors, there would be no need for metal detectors at airports, everyone would obey all the traffic laws, gas stations would operate on the honor system, banks could leave their safes unlocked, etc. It is fun to think of how wonderful the world would be if everyone were trustworthy.** Invite children to describe a day at school if everyone was trustworthy. Invite students to describe a day at school if everyone was trustworthy. As time allows, have students write a short story titled: *One Incredible Day of Trust.*
***School/Home Link** Ask students to imagine with a family member what the world would be like if everyone was trustworthy.*

LESSON 4

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Ask students to consider the following questions. Ask: **How important is trust in your relationships with friends and family? How would these relationships be affected if you found out someone were lying to you?** Once trust has been broken, what can you do to get it back? Have students select one question and answer it and explain their answer. As time allows, have students share their explanations aloud. As an extended activity, divide students into two teams to debate the following positions: **Situation 1: We should start off trusting people and stop trusting them if they prove that they're not worthy.** Or, **Situation 2: We should be cautious and not trust people until they prove themselves worthy.** Instruct one side to debate position 1 and the other team to debate position 2. Declare a winner based on the arguments delivered by each team.

***School/Home Link** Ask students to ask a family member if they view them as trustworthy and explain why or why not.*

LESSON 5

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Read: **As you grow up, one day you will look for a job. Employers want to hire trustworthy people. There may be several people applying for the same job. What are the characteristics that an employer would seek when considering a candidate for employment? If you were the boss doing the hiring, how could you be sure you hired a trustworthy person?** Call on students to answer the questions. As time allows, have students write down specific questions the employer may ask the potential employee. As an extended activity, have students role-play a scenario in which an employer is interviewing a potential employee. After several students have been interviewed, have the class vote on which candidate should get the job based on their trustworthiness.

***School/Home Link** Ask a family member what questions they might ask someone to find out if he or she were trustworthy.*

Louisiana Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations

ELA-2-M6, ELA-4-M2, ELA-4-M4, ELA-4-M5 ELA-4-M7 ELA-7-M2, LA-1-M1, ELA-1-M4, ELA-7-M1, ELA-3-M, C1-A-M7, C1-B-M5