

# Loyalty

**LOYALTY** means being true to someone or something.

**LOYALTY** shows love for one's country.

## LESSON 1

Read the definition of **LOYALTY**. Explain that being loyal includes supporting and protecting. Create a class chart of people, places, or things where a person might show loyalty. (Examples include: family, country, friends, school, a team, a club, etc.) Brainstorm ways that a person can show loyalty in each area. Examples include:

- **Family:** Attend a family member's sporting event or performance, help a brother or sister, encourage one another, etc.
- **Country:** Treat the flag respectfully, obey laws, show gratitude to people in military, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, etc.

As time allows, have students use the chart to select someone or something they are loyal to and write a three sentence paragraph telling why.

**School/Home Link** - Ask students to talk with a family member about the importance of loyalty in their family.

## LESSON 2

Ask students to describe "fair weather." (Calm, sunny, clear, etc.) Have students identify the opposite of "fair weather." (Stormy, windy, rainy, etc.) Ask: **Have you heard the expression "Fair-Weather Friend"?**

**What does it mean? Do you think this type of person is a loyal friend?** Allow time for discussion. Explain that "fair-weather friends" are not loyal friends; they are only around when times are good. Read the following and ask students to identify the loyal friend. **Mary, Bonnie, and Erin played together at recess. One day, Mary hurt her leg and had to stay inside during recess for two weeks. Mary asked Erin and Bonnie if they would keep her company. Erin said "no" because she wanted to play outside. Bonnie said "yes."** Ask: **Who was the loyal friend? Who was the fair-weather friend?** Ask students if they consider themselves to be a loyal friend or a "fair-weather friend." As time allows, have students think of their own scenario that would illustrate a loyal or "fair-weather friend."

**School/Home Link** - Ask students to compare a "fair-weather friend" to a loyal friend with a family member.

## LESSON 3

Review the definition of **LOYALTY**. Read: **Being loyal means to be true to someone, no matter what anyone else says or does. Some people use the expression "true blue" as another way of saying "loyal". The phrase comes from the 1500's when a blue fabric dye was created that was so permanent it would not fade or bleed at all when it was washed. It was steadfast, unwavering, and "true blue."** Can you think of someone who is a loyal or "true blue" friend? Invite students to describe their "true blue" friend to the class. As time allows, have students research the expression "true blue," and share their findings with the class. Encourage students to be "true blue" — through and through."

**School/Home Link** - Ask students to talk to a family member about a "true blue" friend in his or her life.

## LESSON 4

Review the definition of **LOYALTY**. **A good place to show loyalty is at school. Have you ever gone to a high school football game? When people cheer for a particular school's team, they are showing loyalty to that school.** Write the following heading on the board: **We Are True To Our School.** Ask students to identify ways they can be true to their school and record them under the heading. Examples include: wearing their school colors, singing their school song, showing school pride by keeping the grounds clean, etc. If time allows, ask students to copy the list as a reminder of ways to show loyalty to their school.

**School/Home Link** - Ask students to talk with a family member about their school colors and mascot when they were young.

## LESSON 5

Review the definition of **LOYALTY**. Explain there is a wrong kind of loyalty that can cause serious harm. Read: **Being loyal does not mean that you lie or even keep quiet to protect someone who has broken the law. There is a time to keep your friend's secrets and a time to speak up. When someone does something that is dangerous or causes harm - a real friend cares enough to speak up. If you see someone steal something, and decide not to tell because he or she is your friend, that is the wrong kind of loyalty. What could you do if you saw someone you know commit such a crime?** (Encourage honesty, try to get him or her to admit it and return what was taken, talk to a trusted adult, etc.) Explain that without help, your friend might keep making wrong choices and could get into serious trouble. Write on the board: **True and loyal friends help each other to be their best.** As time allows, have students evaluate their friendships to determine if they have loyal friends and decide why or why not.

**School/Home Link** - Ask students to talk to a parent about the right and wrong kinds of loyalty.