

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. Make a list on the board of people, places or things where a person might show loyalty. (Examples could include: family, country, religious beliefs, friends, school, a team, a club, etc.) Brainstorm ways that a person can show loyalty in each area. Examples could 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.

Ask students to select from the list and write a paragraph telling why the person or thing chosen deserves their loyalty. As time allows, invite students to read it aloud.

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 - Tell students to ask a family member to compare a fair-weather friend to a loyal friend.

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 - Tell students to ask a family member about a "true blue" friend in their life.

LESSON 4

Review the definition of **LOYALTY**. Explain that the word loyalty is often associated with our country. American citizens have shown loyalty to our country throughout history. Many historic events occurred because of loyalty to our nation. Draw a timeline on the board and show the following events in chronological order.

Declaration of Independence - 1776, World War II – 1941 (Attack on Pearl Harbor), War on Terrorism, September 11, 2001. Explain to students that Americans throughout history have fought to defend our nation, which is one of the highest forms of loyalty.

School/Home Link - Tell students to ask a family member to describe an event in history that showed loyalty to our nation.

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 your parent or another trusted adult, etc.) Explain that without help, your friend might keep making wrong choices and could get into serious trouble. Teach students that: **True and loyal friends help each other to be their best.**

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