



YOUNG MASTER CHALLENGE

Little Bee

English

FOCUS VALUE:

Honesty



Article: The Power of Honesty

Why Honesty is Important

Imagine a world where no one told the truth. You wouldn't know if your friend really liked you, if your teacher's advice was helpful, or if your parents meant what they said. The world would be full of confusion and mistrust. Honesty means telling the truth in our words and our actions. It means being real with people — not pretending, not hiding, not making excuses. When you are honest, people can trust you. And trust is like glue. It holds friendships, families, schools, and even communities together.

What is Trustworthiness?

Trustworthiness means that people can rely on you. If you say you will do something, you really do it. If you promise to keep a secret, you keep it. Being trustworthy is like being a safe box: people know they can put their confidence in you.

When you are trustworthy, you become a person others want to be around. Teachers choose you for responsibilities. Friends come to you for advice. Your family feels proud of you.

Consequences of Dishonesty

Dishonesty is the opposite of honesty. It can mean lying, cheating, or hiding the truth. When someone acts dishonestly, it has two kinds of effects: For the person themselves: They may feel guilty, anxious, or worried about being found out. One lie often leads to another, and it becomes a heavy burden.

For others around them: Lies break trust. If a friend lies to you once, it may be hard to believe them again. In families or schools, dishonesty can cause arguments and sadness. In communities, it can create unfairness and even danger.

Dishonesty is like throwing a stone in a pond: the ripples spread far beyond the first splash.

The Psychology Behind Dishonesty

Why do people lie? Psychologists say people often lie because of fear. They may fear punishment, embarrassment, or losing respect. Sometimes, people lie to make themselves look better or to get something they want. But lying doesn't solve the fear — it usually makes it worse.

When you lie, your brain and heart feel stress. Your mind remembers the false story, and you worry that someone will discover it. This stress can even make you feel sick. Honesty, on the other hand, brings peace of mind.

What About “White Lies”?

Some people think small lies, or “white lies,” are not serious. A white lie might be saying, “I love your drawing!” when you don’t mean it, or telling your teacher you forgot homework because your dog ate it.

But here’s the problem: every lie, even a small one, teaches your brain that lying is okay. White lies can grow into bigger ones. And the person who receives the lie is still being tricked. Honesty may sometimes feel uncomfortable, but it shows respect. Instead of lying, you can be kind but truthful: “That’s a very colorful drawing. Maybe you can add more details.”

How Lying Affects Friendships and Families

Friendships are built on trust. If a friend lies, the bond can break. Families, too, need honesty to stay strong. Imagine if a child lies about grades at school — the parents cannot help or encourage them because they don’t know the truth. Lies create walls between people. Truth builds bridges.

The Link Between Fear and Lying

Fear often pushes people to lie. In *Shiloh*, Marty lies to his parents because he is afraid they will take Shiloh back to Judd. His fear makes him hide the truth. But his lies only bring more stress, and he feels guilty. When he finally tells the truth and makes a deal with Judd, he feels relieved and proud.

In *Frindle*, Nick doesn’t exactly lie, but he faces a challenge with honesty. His word frindle causes problems, and he has to admit that he started it. Owning the truth makes him more respected in the end.

Both stories show us: fear may tempt us to lie, but honesty is the path to peace and growth.

Why Telling the Truth is Hard... but Worth It

Sometimes honesty is hard. You might worry about punishment or hurting someone’s feelings. But the long-term benefits are worth it:

People trust you more.

You feel lighter inside — no secrets to hide.

Problems get solved more quickly.

You become a role model for others.

Examples to Remember

In *Shiloh*, Marty's honesty brings him the dog he loves and the respect of his family.

In *Frindle*, Nick's honesty about his actions shows that even creative ideas need responsibility.

In real life, when you tell the truth — even if it's hard — you show courage.

Final Thought

Honesty is not always the easiest choice, but it is always the best one. Lies may seem to protect us for a moment, but they trap us in fear. The truth may be difficult at first, but it sets us free and helps us grow.

So the next time you are tempted to lie, remember Buzz the mascot's words:

“Honesty is the golden key — it unlocks trust, friendship, and a brighter future.”