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Eyes of the Storm

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Friendship

Where does friendship begin and end? Most preteens have a difficult time deciphering between loyalty and good ole' common sense.

Friendship is everything to a budding teenager. As a child seeks to "cut the apron strings" they drift more and more into their network of friends for support and encouragement. While this phase is natural and necessary, it can create confusion for the child.

A child's need to feel a part of something can cause them to use poor judgment in regard to loyalty within friendships. If a friend wants to do something, whether right or wrong, a preteen can feel pressured to help that friend accomplish his goals purely out of friendship.

As teachers and parents we must help our children to understand the importance of maintaining individuality within their friendships.

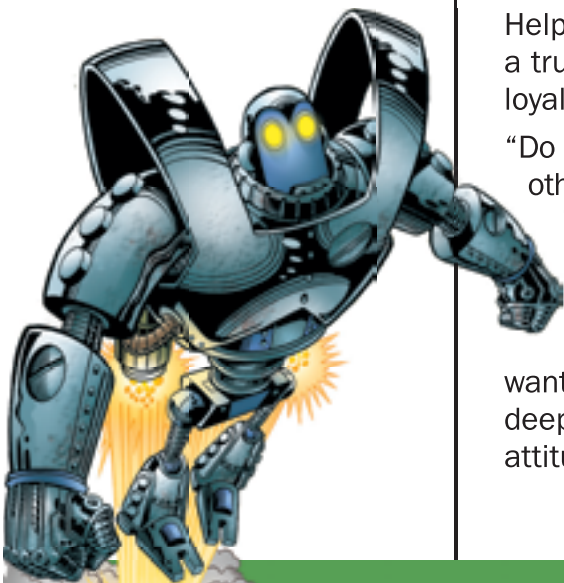
Ask your child (or class) the following discussion questions:

- What is a friend?
- Would you do anything to help a friend?
- Is there ever a time a friend should say, "No"?

Help a child understand the true meaning of friendship. At times being a true friend means saying no to the requests of a dear friend. Being a loyal friend means putting another's needs and best interests first.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3, 4, NIV).

It's also important to remind a child that a true friend will never ask you to do anything you're uncomfortable with. This is difficult for a child to grasp at times because they want and need so desperately for their friendships to be deep and caring. Often a child bases his self-worth on the attitudes and beliefs of his friends.



Holsom Comics Discussion Questions

After the kids have read [Holsom Comics Issue 8](#), ask these questions to spark discussions about friendship.

- Did Jordan show true friendship when she asked Lance to cross the creek? Why? *(A true friend won't ask you to do something dangerous to you or your possessions.)*
- How should Lance have responded? Why do you think he went ahead and did what Jordan asked even though he felt it was a bad decision? *(Lance should have told Jordan no. He most likely said yes because he felt pressured to help Jordan, even though she was simply trying to get herself out of a bad situation.)*
- When Jordan spoke harshly to Ashley, saying, "Shut up, Ashley! I can't believe I let you talk me into this—this double-date," was she mad at Ashley or herself? *(Sometimes when we find ourselves in trouble we choose to blame others.)*
- How did the kids finally show true friendship in the end? *(The kids tried to help each other, putting the others' needs before their own.)*
 - What are some things you have learned about being a friend from this issue of Holsom? *(Answers will vary)*



*You can play this game as
many times as you like,
using different letters.*

Holsom Friendship Game

Items needed: 26 small pieces of paper with the alphabet letters written on them, paper and pen for each student

- Choose a letter from your stack (you may choose to put paper in hat or box beforehand).
- Reveal the letter chosen.
- Give students 2 minutes to come up with as many words as possible to complete the sentence, "A friend is someone who is..."
- Call time after 2 minutes and ask each student to reveal his or her answers. If an answer matches the answer of someone else, they must cross that word out. The winner will have the most "unmatched" answers.

