



# Honesty

## Vs. Deception

### I WILL:

- tell the truth
- encourage others to be truthful
- not cheat or steal
- admit when I am wrong
- not exaggerate to make things seem different from what they are

*Robin Castetter is a Retired Elementary Teacher from, Loveland City Schools*

*P.O. Box 33144  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
45233*

*Mary Andres Russell,  
Executive Director*

## Being truthful in what I say and do

Grades Pre. - 3

### **Berenstain Bears and the Truth** by Jan and Stan Berenstain

This book has so many inspirational stories in it! They are about growing up as teens and different challenges they may face. They also have short quotes at the top of each story for you to analyze and they really get you thinking.

### **Pinky Promise: A Book About Telling the Truth** by Vanita Braver

When Madison accidentally breaks her mom's expensive camera, she lies to protect herself from punishment. After a difficult evening, she consults with her teddy bear, named Honesty. She then bravely approaches her mother and apologizes, with a pinky promise never to lie again. Feeling better immediately, she is able to do her homework and eat. That night, in a break from the reality-based premise, Madison's bear scampers down from the shelf to cuddle with her in bed. His whispered goodnight reiterates the book's message. While a bear named Honesty is a glaring literary tool, at least the toy is not prone to lectures. Even though the girl asks him for advice, he doesn't verbally respond, so that the answer is seen to come from within. This reassuring book provides a lesson to children and educates parents in how to calmly and compassionately respond to a youngster who has told a lie. There is nice detail and consistency in the pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations, largely done in soothing blues and greens. The stuffed animals are animated with human expressions from the start so that the fantasy ending is not totally unexpected.

### **Tattletale Tilly** by Joanna Weaver

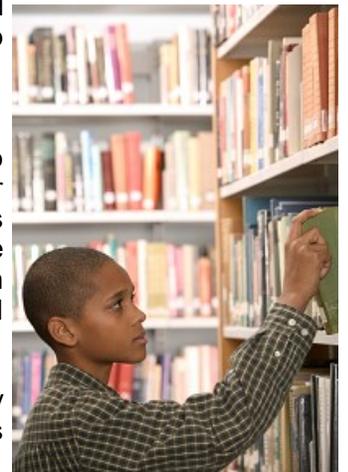
Tattletale Tilly, the youngest O'Toole, made sure those around her kept every rule. From her big sister, Milly, to her big brother Tom, Tilly kept them in line with her threats to tell Mom. Little Tilly is such a squealer, both at home and at school. After a while her family has had enough of her self-righteous tattling. When her dad tells her the tattling must stop, Tilly realizes she needs help being more kind and merciful to others.

### **The Honest-to-Goodness-Truth** by Pat McKissack

When Libby lies to her mama and is caught, she vows never to lie again. So she tells the truth. Ruthie Mae has a hole in her sock. Willie hasn't done his homework; old Miz Tusselbury's yard looks like a jungle. So if she is honest, why is the whole world mad at her? When Libby gets a taste of her own medicine, will she finally learn the difference between a lie and the honest-to-goodness truth?

### **Ruthie and the (not so) Teeny Tiny Lie** by Laura Rankin

Ruthie loves tiny things and when she finds a tiny camera on the playground she is very happy, but after she lies



# Robin's Reading List



and says the camera belongs to her, nothing seems to go right.

## Grades 4 -8:

### **Heat** by Mike Lupica

With a pitching arm that is truly exceptional, Michael Arroyo hopes to take his team to the Little League World Series. Since the death of their father, Michael and his brother, Carlos, are trying to fly under the radar of Social Services so they can stay together, out of foster care and in the country. When Michael's fantastic pitch raises eyebrows and he needs his birth certificate to prove his age, he and his brother need all the help they can get. Both truth and a few hidden secrets keep the reader actively involved in the story.

### **If A Tree Falls at Lunch Period** by Gennifer Choldenko

Kirsten McKenna and Walker Jones are both starting seventh grade at the same school, but have never met. Kirsten is thrilled that summer is over so she can get back to her best friend and away from her parents, who only communicate through an intermediary, which may explain why she's gained so much weight in the past few months. Walk just wants to keep his head down at the predominantly white private school his mom transferred him to so that he can stay out of trouble. When Kirsten and Walk meet, they instantly take a liking to one another, but they are completely unprepared for the shocking truth that links them together forever.

### **The Birthday Room** by Kevin Henkes

Two gifts on a boy's 12th birthday fortuitously bring an entire family closer together. Young Benjamin likes to draw and paint, but when his parents give him a present of a room to use as a studio, he feels pressured into becoming an artist. He is enthralled by his second gift: a letter from his Uncle Ian in Oregon, inviting Ben to come for a visit. Ben's mother, however, is not so enthralled; she still blames her younger brother for a wood-shop accident that caused Ben to lose a finger at age two. Not until Ben tells her, "If I had to choose, I'd take the trip over the room," does she consent to the visit. As Ben spends time in Oregon with his mother, Uncle Ian, Ian's expectant wife, Nina, and the Deeter children who live nearby, he discovers some important truths about his family and himself, and eventually finds a special purpose for his "birthday room."



### **Four Truths and a Lie** by Lauren Barnholdt

Scarlett has left her old school and her old friends for a new start at Brookline Academy for Girls. A scandal involving her father tainted her old life and she wants to be where no one knows anything about it. Brookline is a rigorously academic boarding school, and Scarlett has a new roommate to adjust to, as well as a heavy load of homework. She somehow gets roped into joining the basketball team, which ought to be interesting as she doesn't really play sports, and a pen pal project her English teacher initiates makes Scarlett's life very interesting indeed.

### **Funerals and Fly Fishing** by Mary Bartek

Twelve-year-old Brad Stanislawski can't wait for school to be out, if for no other reason than to get away from the kids who tease him about being tall and call him "Stan-is-lousy" all day. He's feeling rather unappreciated! But to add to his troubles, his mom has to go on a business trip and the babysitting arrangement she made for him has fallen through. Now the only option left is for him

# Robin's Reading List



to spend two weeks with his estranged grandfather, whom he has never met, in a small town in Pennsylvania. And this guy not only runs a funeral home, he lives right above it! Brad will learn that first impressions don't always mean everything, as he spends his vacation figuring out who he is, learning the truth behind his mother's silence towards her own father while helping the adults in his life see the truth.

**Grades 9 -12:**

## **A Little Honesty** by Jonathan Pearce

Sixteen-year-old Zachary Taylor Burnross acts far more immature than an upperclassman should be. But Zachary is surrounded and pressured by very adult problems, such as his mother's possible adultery and his elderly father's gradual mental degeneration. Surrounded by people who talk to him of sex, marriage, and threats to blow up his school, his own desire for a motorcycle and a date with a TV star could be lost amidst the tumult of conflicting troubles. *A Little Honesty* is a highly recommended and entertaining novel which does not talk down to adolescent readers.

## **In Too Deep** by Amanda Grace

Carter didn't rape me. People at school think he did. Suddenly, new friends are rushing to my side, telling me that Carter hurt them, too. They say he's getting what he deserves.

Sam is in love with her best friend Nick, but she can't seem to tell him. So she decides to flirt with golden-boy Carter Wellesley, hoping Nick will see it and finally realize his true feelings for her.

On Monday, everyone at school is saying that Carter raped Sam. He didn't, but Sam can't find the words to tell the truth. Worst of all, she's afraid she'll lose Nick if he finds out what really happened.

As graduation approaches, Sam discovers that living the lie isn't as easy as her new friends make it sound—and telling the truth might be even worse.

## **Aces Up** by Lauren Barnholdt

Seventeen-year-old high school senior Shannon Card needs a lot of money. She's been admitted to Wellesley, but her dad just lost his job, and somehow she has to come up with a year of tuition herself. But Shannon's dream of making big bucks waitressing at the local casino, the Collosio, disappears faster than a gambler's lucky streak. Her boss is a tyrant, her coworker is nuts, and her chances of balancing a tray full of drinks while wearing high-heeled shoes are slim to none. Worse, time is running out, and Shannon hasn't made even half the money she'd hoped. When Shannon receives a mysterious invitation to join Aces Up, a secret network of highly talented college poker players, at first she thinks "NoWay". She has enough to worry about: keeping her job, winning the coveted math scholarship at school, and tutoring her secret crush, Max. But when Shannon musters up the nerve to kiss Max and he doesn't react at all, the allure of Aces Up and its sexy eighteen-year-old leader, Cole, is suddenly too powerful to ignore. Soon Shannon's caught up in a web of lies and deceit that makes worrying about tuition money or a high school crush seem like kid stuff. Still, when the money's this good, is the fear of getting caught reason enough to fold?

## **Chicken Soup for the Soul: Teens Talk High School: 101 Stories of Life, Love, and Learning for Older Teens** by Jack Canfield

Stories in this book cover topics important to the 14 to 18-year-old range, including regrets and lessons learned, dating and sex, family relationships, applying to college, and preparing for life after high school.

This book has so many inspirational stories in it! They are about growing up as teens and different challenges they may face. They also have short quotes at the top of each story for you to analyze and they really get you thinking.

## **Divergent** by Veronica Roth

# Robin's Reading List

Fans of The Hunger Games will enjoy this new dystopian novel. Beatrice Prior's society is divided into five factions based on virtues: Erudite (knowledge), Dauntless (bravery), Abnegation (selflessness), Amity (peace), and Candor (honesty). Now that Beatrice is turning sixteen she must declare a faction. Will she choose Abnegation, where she's been raised to be selfless and defer to others, or will she choose another faction? Torn between staying with her family and being true to her yearning to be more daring, Beatrice must make a choice and she must keep a secret she does not understand. What is her secret? She is Divergent. Once Beatrice chooses her faction there is no going back, so with a new sense of bravery she changes her name to Tris and begins a painful initiation that will test her physically, mentally, and emotionally. Along the way she meets a boy who has secrets of his own, and together they discover a plot that will destroy the delicate balance between factions and turn their society into chaos.

