

# Loyalty

Character... It starts with me!

ROBIN'S READING LIST

## Vs. Unfaithfulness

### I WILL:

- encourage others in hard times
- not mock authorities
- serve my family and teachers
- point out the good in others
- honor my country

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### Demonstrating commitment to others

#### All Grades:

##### The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

Relationships and events related in *The Jungle Book* are important to any human being. This book is a group of stories that revolve around noble qualities such as loyalty, honor, courage, tradition, persistence, and integrity. These stories need to be read and reread later in high school, and again later in life as the longer one lives, the broader is the frame of reference one has against which to draw the stories into perspective.

#### Grade Pre – 2:

##### Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss

This story is about Horton, an elephant, who is —faithful one hundred percent!. Horton hears a mysterious yelp as a speck of dust breezes by. Convinced that the noise was a cry for help coming from the speck, Horton chases the dust until it lands on the clover that he protectively holds in his trunk. He vows to protect the speck and whoever lives on it. Topics to discuss are loyalty, helping others, standing up to bullies, living up to parents' standards, and following the crowd.

##### The Recess Queen by Alexis O'Neill

This rhyming story would hope that all bullying problems could be solved so easily! Mean Jean is the reigning Recess Queen, pushing and smooshing, hammering and slammering the other kids whenever they cross her. And then one day a puny new girl shows up on the playground and catches Mean Jean completely off-guard. Not only is little Katie Sue not the least bit intimidated by the bully, she actually asks her to jump rope with her. In no time flat, Jean and Katie Sue are best buddies, and the playground is safe for all again.

#### Grades 1 – 3:

##### Inside Edge #5 by Michael Teitelbaum

The Backyard Sports kids are taking to the ice for hockey season. But when Tony, their star player, gets invited to play with his older brother's hockey team in addition to his own, Tony thinks he can do both. Soon he's missing practices and letting his friends down. When he realizes that both of his teams are playing their biggest games of the season on the same day, he has a choice to make. Will he choose his older brother or his best friends?

# Robin's Reading List



**Trust Me: A Loyalty Story (Main Street School Set #2)** by Anastasia Suen Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel This pair of amphibian pals likes to do everything together. One day when Toad bakes cookies, they try to develop willpower together. The Frog and Toad series is great for new readers. The simple text and hued pictures combined with sensitive, funny, and original stories that show children what true friendship is all about.

**Grades 1 – 6:**

**It's About Dogs/poems** by Tony Johnston

This book presents forty-two poems--some funny, some poignant and philosophical--about dogs and their attributes, including their loyalty to people, their love of food and smells, and their varied appearances and personalities.

**Grades 3 – 6:**

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** by Carie Bryson

Charlie Bucket is a young boy who is due for a bit of good luck. He and his family, living in a tiny shack, are in great need of everything money can buy, but they are not lacking in love. Overall, the book is a unique story about children, parents, and an eccentric candy man. Especially redeeming is the endearing tale of Charlie's own loyalty to his humble family.

**Grades 4 – 6:**

**Golden Girls #16 (Camp Confidential)** by Melissa J. Morgan

During Color War, Natalie buddies up to the sixth division girls and ditches her fifth division friends, who couldn't be more immature. Then Nat inadvertently catches the attention of a sixth division boy, and without so much as a blink of an eye, she's kicked out of the sixth division circle flat on her fifth division butt. Will Nat's friends take her back? Sure, but first she'll have to own up to a lot of immaturity on her part. Marrying Malcolm Murgatroyd by Mame Ferrell Hannah cherishes her standing with the so-called Popular Kids above all else, to the point where she has almost a double life. At school, she is as cool as everyone else, shunning geeky Malcolm Murgatroyd. But at home she socializes with Malcolm regularly, because his parents and her parents are the best of friends. When Hannah has to assemble a scrapbook for a class project, she realizes that all her family photos show Malcolm, too--her deep, dark secret is about to be revealed. It's easy to imagine a 12-year-old desperately concerned with fitting in, but when Hannah's otherwise sensible parents permit her to carry on her pretense, the stretch becomes impossible. Add to the equation a younger brother afflicted with muscular dystrophy (Malcolm, by the way, is his only friend), and Hannah's preoccupations seem even less earth shattering.

**World's End (Phoenix Rising Trilogy #3)** by Erica Verillo

Elissa used to daydream about being a princess. Now the reality of what it brings is clear: stiff, courtly manners, dresses like cages, tortuously high shoes, and betrothal to an aging duke to secure her father's kingdom! Elissa wants no part of it, and makes her escape to be with her devoted friends, who the King has no use for. But the unseen hand of the Ancient One once again guides Elissa toward a fate she does not wish to acknowledge – the culmination of the prophecy of the Phoenix. This bright and satisfying conclusion to the Phoenix Rising Trilogy includes adventure, the testing of loyalties, and the return of two old enemies...not to mention surprising revelations for our heroine.



# Robin's Reading List



## Grades 5 – 9:

**Zach's Lie** by Roland Smith Zach Granger has to tell many lies; for one, his name is really Jack Osborne, and for another his parents aren't divorced rather, his father, a pilot, is in prison for transporting drugs for a ruthless cartel. When his father agrees to cooperate with the DEA, his family goes into a witness protection program, with new names and a new home in Elko, Nev. Will they be safe from the cartel? Smith paints a realistic picture of Zach's complicated emotions: he misses his father and his old life, he's nervous about making a mistake and he is uncomfortable lying, especially to his new girlfriend, Catalin. He also takes to his new surroundings, especially Catalin's grandfather's sheep camp in the mountains, and the friendly hotel that's home to Sam, the warm and wise custodian of Zach's school. Smith keeps the tensions high: readers will suspect right away that the detailed journals Zach keeps are going to lead to trouble, and will understand the hero's anxiety when lines from it begin to appear on his classroom's chalkboard. Drug lord Alonzo Aznar is a stereotypical bad guy (he has a ponytail, dresses all in black and "likes getting his hands dirty from time to time") and Sam's confession that he is a former KGB spy feels too convenient.

## **The Ring of Five** by Eoin McNamee

Here's the first book in a brilliant trilogy by the author of *The Navigator*. This book's setting is a school for spies and is full of surprises, as well as fascinating questions about loyalty, destiny, and what it means to be a spy. Danny Caulfield doesn't know how he ended up at a mysterious academy called Wilsons. A few of the students are pretty scary. Someone tries to murder him. Even the ravens that haunt the school seem to be against him. Yet he also finds friends: Les, an exceptional thief; Dixie, who has an unsettling talent; and Vandra, a physic with special powers. Danny is destined for a terrifying mission. He has all of the natural gifts of the perfect spy...the ability to betray!!!

## Grades 7 and up:

## **There's A Girl in My Hammerlock** by Jerry Spinelli

Maisie Potter isn't quite sure why she signed up for the boy's wrestling team. She's never been all that interested in boys, so it can't have anything to do with Eric DeLong, in spite of the disturbing effect his smile has on her. And she's certainly not prepared for the effect her presence on the team has on the people around her. Her brother's totally disgusted with her, her best friend drops her, her classmates ridicule her, and opposing teams forfeit rather than wrestle her. BUT, Maisie's not a quitter, and she discovers that she really likes wrestling...and that while Eric might not be worth the flak she puts up with, feeling good about herself is.

## Grades 9 – 12:



## **Friends Are Forever: A Treasury of Quotations About Laughter, Loyalty, Sharing and Trust** by Criswell Freeman

This book is filled with inspiring quotes... quotes about the definition of friendship, trust in friendships, the joys of friendships, and many more topics. The quotes in this book can express all of those things you feel for your best friend(s), but can't put into words!

# Robin's Reading List



## A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

*A Tale of Two Cities* is one of Charles Dickens's most exciting novels. Set against the backdrop of the French Revolution, it tells the story of a family threatened by the terrible events of the past. Doctor Manette was wrongly imprisoned in the Bastille for eighteen years without trial by the aristocratic authorities. Finally released, he is reunited with his daughter, Lucie, who despite her French ancestry has been brought up in London. Lucie falls in love with Charles Darnay, another expatriate, who has abandoned wealth and a title in France because of his political convictions. When revolution breaks out in Paris, Darnay returns to the city to help an old family servant, but there he is arrested because of the crimes committed by his relations. His wife, Lucie, their young daughter, and her aged father follow him across Channel, thus putting all their lives in danger.

## Knights of the Hill Country by Tim Tharp

In a small Oklahoma town, one star linebacker must decide what kind of man wants to be—both on and off the field. This year, the Kennisaw Knights are going for their fifth straight undefeated season and if they succeed, they'll be more than the best high school team in the eastern Oklahoma hill country—they'll be legend. But the Knights' legacy is a heavy weight to carry for Hampton, linebacker and star of the team. On the field, he's so in control you'd think he was able to stop time but his life off the field is a different story. His father walked out on him and his mom years ago, and now his mom has a new boyfriend every week. He's drawn to smart, quirky girls at school—the type a star athlete just isn't supposed to associate with. And meanwhile, his best friend and teammate Blaine—the true friend who first introduced Hampton to football back when he had nothing else—is becoming uncomfortably competitive, and demanding Hampton's loyalty even as Hampton thinks he's going too far. This unforgettable novel is the story of a boy whose choices will decide the kind of man he becomes, and raises powerful questions about sportsmanship, loyalty, and the deceptiveness of legends.

