

# Loyalty

## 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

**FEATURES**

No Matter How You Say	2
Quotes	3
Curriculum Connection	3
Model	4
Team-Building Activity	4
Family Activity	8
Crosky's Corner	9
Character in the Classroom Continuously	10

### Demonstrating commitment to others

When the Beach Boys sang about being “true to your school” they were singing about being loyal to the community of your school. But Loyalty goes beyond cheering for the football team and wearing school colors. It’s about feeling a connection to the individuals in that school community, an ownership of the institution – My School, My Class. One only has to look at the increase of tell-all books, the average length of a marriage and employee turnover rates to realize that loyalty is a lost art.

This month, use the activities in the bulletin to build a loyal community in your classroom.

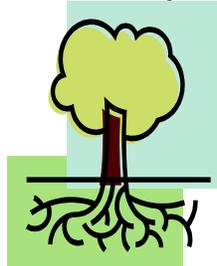

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Venn Diagrams	5
Twin Races	5
Lean On Me	6
Military Loyalty	6
E Pluribus Unum	7

# No Matter How You Say It

## ↻ ↻ Go to the Root ↻ ↻

The French word leial came from the Latin word legalis meaning “legal” or “faithful”, and inspired the Middle English term loyaltee which was later replaced sometime in the 1400s with the spelling loyalty which we know today.



Loyalität - German

Věrnost - Czech

loyauté - French

Lealtad - Spanish

## Sign Language

Check out the following website for the American Sign Language interpretation of

Loyal <https://www.handspeak.com/word/search/index.php?id=1320>

Unreliable <https://www.handspeak.com/word/search/index.php?id=7071>

Can you see how loyal comes from the heart and unreliable is a bad characteristic?

From Miriam Webster ([www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com))

### Loyalty

#### Synonyms

adhesion, allegiance, attachment, commitment, constancy, dedication, devotedness, devotion, faith, faithfulness, fastness, fealty, fidelity, piety, steadfastness, troth

#### Antonyms

disloyalty, faithlessness, falseness, falsity, inconstancy, infidelity, perfidiousness, perfidy, treachery, unfaithfulness

*“People will accept your idea much more readily if you tell them Benjamin Franklin said it first.” -David H. Comins*

## Character Quotables

“Confidentiality is a virtue of the loyal, as loyalty is the virtue of faithfulness.”

~Edwin Louis Cole

“I believe patriotism comes from the heart. Patriotism is voluntary. It is a feeling of loyalty and allegiance that is the result of knowledge and belief.”

~Jesse Ventura

“Talk to people in their own language. If you do it well, they'll say, ‘He said exactly what I was thinking.’ And when they begin to respect you, they'll follow you to the death.”

~Lee Iacocca

“Loyalty cannot be blueprinted. It cannot be produced on an assembly line. In fact, it cannot be manufactured at all, for its origin is the human heart the center of self-respect and human dignity. It is a force which leaps into being only when conditions are exactly right for it-and it is a force very sensitive to betrayal.”

~Maurice Franks

“Do what you do so well that they will want to see it again and bring their friends.”

~Walt Disney

“You've got to give loyalty down, if you want loyalty up.”

~Donald Regan

“When you eat fruit, think of the person who planted the tree.”

~Vietnamese Saying

“Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.”

~Helen Keller

“It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself.”

~Eleanor Roosevelt

“Leaders are leaders only as long as they have the respect and loyalty of their followers.”

~Hans Seliye

“The greater the loyalty of a group toward the group, the greater is the motivation among the members to achieve the goals of the group, and the greater the probability that the group will achieve its goals.”

~Rensis Likert

“Repeat business or behavior can be bribed. Loyalty has to be earned.”

~Janet Robinson

“You don't earn loyalty in a day. You earn loyalty day-by-day.”

~Jeffrey Gitomer

“An ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness.”

~Elbert Hubbard

“Loyalty demands participation, the rest is simply wishful thinking.”

~Unknown

“Animals are reliable, many full of love, true in their affections, predictable in their actions, grateful and loyal. Difficult standards for people to live up to.”

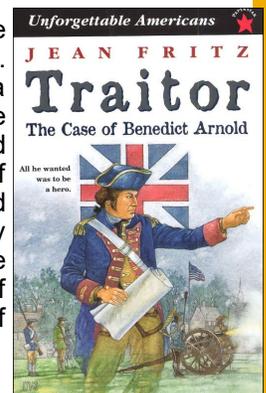
~Alfred A Montapert

### Curriculum Connection



### History

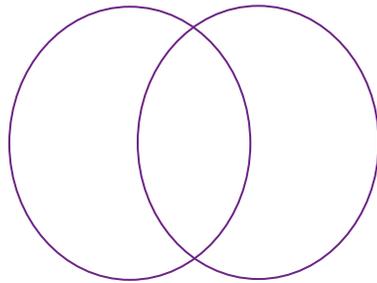
The name of Benedict Arnold has become synonymous with traitor - the opposite of Loyalty. Arnold committed treason in 1780 when, as a general in the Revolutionary Army he defected to the British Army. The connection between Arnold and treason still continues today. Dan Gilbert, owner of the National Basketball Association's Cleveland Cavaliers, referenced Arnold when he was angry about the way LeBron James handled leaving the team in 2010. Gilbert's company lowered the price of James' posters to \$17.41, referring to the year of Arnold's birth.





## Venn Diagrams

Pair up the students. If there is an odd number, you can have three work together but they will need three circles. Each pair will draw two large overlapping circles on a piece of paper. (A Venn Diagram) The intersection of the circles needs to be large enough to write in. Each should label a circle with their name. The students will work together, identifying things about themselves such as hobbies, interests, family traditions, etc. As they take turns identifying something about themselves, they will record them in the circles. If it is something that the two share, then it is written in the section where the circles overlap. If it is something that only pertains to one or the other, it is written inside of their circle but outside of the overlap. Challenge them to come up with something that doesn't apply to either of them and that should be written outside of both circles. If time allows, pair up the pairs and let them compare their diagrams.



## Twin Races

Pair up the students. You may want to do this on a different day than the Venn Diagram exercise or have the students change partners for this exercise. Each pair will need a piece of paper and a pencil. In three minutes, they are to come up with as many things that they have in common as possible. Things that all students have in common such as has 2 eyes, do not count. When the time is up, have each pair count their items. Have each pair share their list.

### Questions for Processing Venn Diagrams and/or Twin Race:

How did you find things that were alike? What kinds of things did you have in common? Did you find more in common after listening to the other pairs' answers? Did you find out things you didn't know about some of your classmates? How does it make you feel to know you have things in common with classmates? When you know there are similarities, does it make accepting differences easier? If you had nothing in common with your classmates, how would you feel? Since you do have so many things in common with your classmates, how do you feel? (connected) How do you treat people that you feel connected to? Are you more loyal to individuals and groups if you feel connected to them? What would it be like if there were no differences? How do our differences make our classroom interesting?

## Lean on Me



Divide the class into groups of 6 or 8 - it must be an even number. Ask each group to stand in a circle holding hands, or holding wrists to make it stronger, and count off in order, one, two, one, two, etc. Tell the students that when you tell them to, all the "ones" should lean forward while the "two's" lean back. Remind them to hold on tightly so that they can support each other from falling. Then, ask them to reverse, so that the ones leaning forward will lean backward and the ones leaning backward will lean forward. For younger students, you may wish to start with one group, with the rest other students watching. Then, organize a second circle to do the same. This way, adults and remaining students can stand around the circle to make sure nobody falls. When it is over ask them if they liked depending on each other? supporting each other? Did they think leaning in or leaning out was harder? Was it easier to support the other person when they were leaning or standing straight? Did they trust the people on either side of them to hold them up? Why? What would have happened if someone had dropped hands? In real life, how do we lean on each other for support? This game was easier when you were both leaning. How does that relate to supporting each other? How can we support each other at school?



## Military Loyalty

Our military veterans truly know the meaning of loyalty. Consider inviting a veteran, possibly related to a student, to come in and speak on the subject of loyalty and what it meant to them then, and what it might mean to them now.

Discuss what loyalty looks like in a family, among friends, or on a sports team. Identify what people might feel loyal to that they shouldn't - fashion, sport fanatic, or a friend who is trying to talk them into doing something they know they shouldn't do.

# E Pluribus Unum

E Pluribus Unum is the motto carried by the American Eagle depicted in the Great Seal of the United States. It is most often translated as “Out of Many, One”. This Latin phrase was well known by the statesmen designing the seal. It appeared on the title page of the annual volume of the Gentleman's Magazine or Monthly Intelligencer – next to a drawing of a hand holding a bouquet of different flowers. America was originally likened to a bouquet, where unity and individuality coexisted – not a "melting pot" that blended everyone together.



To build on the symbolism of the bouquet, create a bouquet in the classroom that symbolizes the unity and individuality of the classroom community. Find some images of flowers online or on your computer. Enlarge each image so that it is large enough to write or draw on. Give each student their choice of flowers to use. Younger students can draw a picture of something that they like to do or a picture that in some way describes themselves. Older students can write down words or phrases that can be used to describe them. Optionally, you can have them write the motto in Latin or English on the stem. Once the flowers are complete, you can glue a beverage straw to the back so they can be placed in a vase or they can be displayed on a bulletin board or hung on the classroom door without the straw. You could also do this exercise by making tissue paper flowers. First, have the students write or draw something about themselves on the tissue paper before folding it into a flower. (Directions for making the flowers can be found at <https://www.verywellfamily.com/tissue-paper-flowers-craft-620428>). When all the flowers are complete, you can create a ritual for adding them to a large vase (decorated with the motto) or putting them on the bulletin board. You can play patriotic music and have each student add their flower, one by one.

When the activity is complete, ask about what the flowers represent? Did you notice how the more flowers we added, the prettier the (vase, board, door) became? How does creating these flowers represent the unity and individuality of our classroom? How will you act toward someone who is different than you?



## For the Family

We are studying the character quality of **Loyalty**: Demonstrating commitment to others.

To practice Loyalty I will:

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



### Family Activity:

**Weakest Link:** Find a good sturdy chain link chain. Let the family come up with ideas of uses for that chain such as - hang something, lock up something, drag something, secure something. If you have just one link separated from the chain you can use it in the next part. If not, just hold up one link from the end of the chain and ask what just one link can do. Not much. Discuss how the chain represents people working together for a common goal or cause. How is the family like that chain, working together? What happens to the chain if one link gives out and breaks? How does that image apply to a family?



To end the activity, make a paper chain and each person gets to decorate one link of the paper chain.

Hang the chain where everyone can see it or use it as a centerpiece on the dining room table for the month.



Other ways to teach character in the home:

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- Review the “I wills” and see if there are specific actions you can add to this list.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.
- For more ideas visit [www.charactercincinnati.org/education.php](http://www.charactercincinnati.org/education.php)

# Croskey's Corner

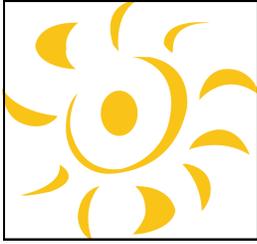
Lindsay Lohan taught us about teenage girls in Mean Girls, right? They backstab, they compete for guys - just for the sake of competing, yes? They have difficulty sustaining a relationship with another female because they're only in "it" for themselves. That all happens, I know. I saw it often in my job. But I know 2 teenagers who seem to have outgrown that mold. One young lady, Ella, has had some emotional trauma. She found a good therapist and learned to cope with life's struggles. Her friend, Liz, has listened to these ups and downs and had offered support. At one point, the traumatized Ella said to her friend, "You are the only person I can really count on." So, in order to give that support substance, Liz wrote herself a note which said, "Text Ella every night before bed." Liz stuck that note on her bathroom mirror. Every night, when she brushes her teeth, she sees the reminder to text Ella. And, that's what she does. She texts Ella and says, "I love you and care about you."

Simple acts done reliably. There is a lot of power in that. The Character Quality of the Month is Loyalty. It is defined as "demonstrating commitment to others." It reminds me of another act of loyalty. I have a friend, Margaret. She is in her late 80's. Sadly, too many of her friends and loved ones have passed away. She has lost 2 husbands. Margaret is not one to sink into a depression of old age. She mourns the passing of these, but she does not fixate upon that loss. Rather, she pays tribute to them; she visits their graves. Margaret is of the generation which says that part of life is death and part of death is visiting cemeteries and leaving flowers on the graves - in short, doing your duty. This devotion to duty suggests that Loyalty is about brave commitment during hard times, but also about building reliable habits that will sustain loyal behavior through those exact hard times.

At my house, one of our mottoes was, "You gotta dance with the one who brung you." (With my poor grammar, I didn't get invited to a lot of dances to begin with!) For us, that meant that if any of us made a commitment to do something fun with a friend, or be somewhere we didn't want to go, or share a big event with a particular person, the commitment was honored. Even when a better "offer" came along later. Each of us chafed at that commitment at times, but we applied the Golden Rule: If any of us had our invitations accepted, we didn't want to end up being dumped because our friend was seeking an "upgrade." I guess I learned this from experience. In high school, a girl asked me to a Sadie Hawkins Day Dance before my real romantic interest could. I said "No" to the first invitation; you know, I had a "family obligation." (Sit at home and watch Saturday night TV.) When my true love invited me, I reluctantly declined and explained what happened. I survived. Later, in college, I invited a new friend to go out. She said "Yes" and then later called to say she had to wash her hair. No kidding! You know how long the lines for showers are in those dorms! What else could she do?

I guess I have learned as much about loyalty from disloyalty as I have from the times of commitments being reliably kept. Building loyalty in yourself requires an initial commitment to someone or some ideal but then rehearsing the loyal act must follow until it is habit. It is so much easier to act loyally if every discrete act does not require a new moral dilemma to resolve. Indeed, the 49th time of acting with Loyalty is easier than the first few times. Teachers can help. First, teaching kids the meaning of Loyalty is a good start. Then reminding them of their commitments helps. But, mostly, it is about modeling Loyalty for them. Classroom duties, carried out reliably, are the makings of Loyalty. Parents and other significant adults don't have nearly as difficult a job encouraging Loyalty in children if they ARE Loyal. So, Dance with the one who brung you. You may even end up being glad you were brung!

Bill Croskey is a retired  
school psychologist  
from the Loveland City  
Schools



**The Character Council of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky**

P.O. Box 33144

Cincinnati, Ohio 45233

Mary Andres Russell, Executive Director

E-mail: [mrussell@charactercincinnati.org](mailto:mrussell@charactercincinnati.org)

**[www.charactercincinnati.org](http://www.charactercincinnati.org)**

Written by Jill Tomey,  
Character Education Consultant

© 2018 Character Council of Greater Cincinnati &  
Northern Kentucky

The 49 Character Qualities are adapted from Character First!  
materials and are used with permission.

Use of external website links in our articles does not imply endorsement of the site, its content or the views and opinions of the external Web site's sponsoring organization. Please use your own discretion when using material from these links.

**Character...It Starts With Me!**

## Character in the Classroom *Continuously*

There are many ways that you can teach the Character Quality of Month. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Ask students to make posters to hang in the classroom or around the school.
- Challenge students to find quotes, news stories, current (or classic) songs or movies that portray the character quality of the month. Be sure to share these with the class and “archive” these to use in future years.
- Add the character trait of the month to the spelling word list. (Even if it is posted in the classroom to copy!)
- Offer for students to make a video or write a rap that demonstrates the Character Quality of the Month.
- If you teach younger students, see if you can “borrow” some older students to lead your students in an activity or switch the roles and have the younger students “teach” a rhyme to the older students.
- If you teach older students, you can be the initiator in the previous activities.
- Invite local business leaders or small business owners to talk about the importance of a character trait. If you teach older students, aim to get a representative from a business that typically hires teens so that they can relate the importance of good character when applying for and *keeping* a job.
- Men and women in uniform usually make impressive guest speakers. Police departments, fire departments and military recruiting offices are usually willing to come into a classroom. Do not be afraid to give them specific requests or guidelines for speaking so that it is pertinent to the lessons of the month.
- Always have a generic character activity planned and ready to go that you can use as filler when you have time to kill or that a substitute teacher can use in your absence.