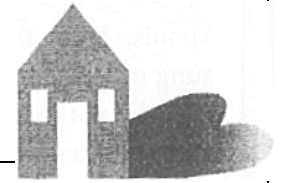


# CHARACTER



Truthfulness

February 2005

**Truthfulness: Habitually telling the truth.  
If it is not right do not do it; if it is not true do not say it.  
Marcus Aurelius**

Truth is defined as the state or character being true in relation to being, knowledge or speech-also, conformity to the requirements of one's being or nature; steadfastness; sincerity.

Our English word true comes from the same root word as tree -something solid and firm as a tree. The word false comes from the root word meaning to bend or deviate. From Act 1, scene 3 of Shakespeare's Hamlet we quote the famous words of Polonius as he pronounces a blessing on the head of his son Laertes:

This above all, -to thine ownself be true; and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not be false to any man. This past year there have been many tragic events reported in the news, which were the result of individuals forsaking the truth. One lie or deception if repeated often enough can result in an individual actually coming to believe that the lie he or she is living is the truth.

To quote from an article entitled Why Truth is Essential, we are reminded that because knowing the truth is so important to our lives and society we place a high premium on the person whose word we can rely on and exact a stiff penalty from those who we can't. We live in a very complex, interdependent culture, where we have to rely on others every day-sometimes our lives depend on the truthfulness of people who inspect our food, homes and vehicles, or who pilot us through the congested skies.

Truthfulness has to be the standard in all our actions. We search out people who we can count on, who won't lie to us. Something deep within us desires others we

associate with to be constant in trustworthiness. We must have a moral compass that automatically points true north regardless of circumstances. Situational truth will not do!

In 1633 AD a religious tribunal condemned Galileo for teaching that the sun, not the earth, was the center of our planetary system. His teachings were contrary to the accepted Christian Astronomy of the day. President Heber J Grant noted that Galileo's discovery almost cost him his life. When Galileo announced that the earth revolved and circled the sun, they passed the sentence of death upon him. The judges thought it too bad to kill the poor fool who thought the world revolved (and decided) to let him off if he would pledge not to teach the doctrine. He could not keep the truth back and quietly taught it. The judges arranged to make him lie down in front of the church where they were worshipping God on this stationary earth and let everybody step on him to show their contempt. When they had all stepped on him, he got up and said, Well, it goes around just the same. *From article entitled Unchanging Truth.*

As we individuals of all ages strive to obtain peace of conscience we must remember the biblical injunctions to desirest truth in the inward parts: (Psalms 51:6), and to know the truth and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32). Above all to thine own self be true.

Rexine and James Glenn  
Lindon Residents

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.  
Mark Twain

Truth is a deep kindness that teaches us to be content in our everyday life and share with the people the same happiness.  
Kahlil Gibran

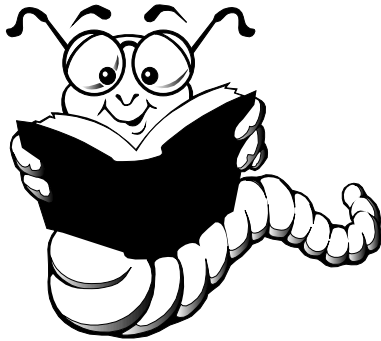
Truth is generally the best vindication against slander.  
Abraham Lincoln

## Book List

**A Big Fat Enormous Lie**  
by Marjorie Sharmat

**The Pumpkin Man from Piney Creek**  
by Darleen Bailey Beard

**The Empty Pot**  
by Demi



## Family Activities

**Make cookies together.** Discuss what would happen if cornstarch were used for baking powder. *If a substituted ingredient looks the same, at what point will the error be discovered?* Thomas B. Macaulay said, The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out.

**Share accounts of truthful responses in difficult situations.**

**Talk about current events.** *How important is the truth to solving the problems that are in the news?*

**With a string, make a straight line between Object A and Object B (a few yards apart.)**

With a second string, start at Object A and weave around several other obstacles before ending at Object B. Have family members walk the string paths with a book balancing on their head. *Telling the truth is like a straight line in geometry. Both are the shortest distance between two points. Discuss the losses of time and resources that may occur as a result of dishonesty.*

**Marian Anderson, an American contralto, was born on February 17, 1902.** A famous conductor once praised her voice as one, heard once in a hundred years. Yet, because of racism she was prevented by the Daughters of the American Revolution from performing in the Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Eleanor Roosevelt resigned from the DAR in protest. Later, Marian sang before 75,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial. Said Marian Anderson, There are many persons ready to do what is right because in their hearts they know it is right. But they hesitate, waiting for the other fellow to make the first move and he, in turn, waits for you. *Acting with integrity and being true to principles, as well as being truthful is often difficult, yet frequently our honesty inspires others to be more upright. How can truth be used to dispel prejudice?*

## Kid's Corner

**Being truthful is telling about things that really happened. If you tell a lie, you have to worry about it all the time, but when you tell the truth, you never have to worry.**

**In the Bible, John 8:32, it says, And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. For example, if you lie to one of your friends, they may stop trusting you and it would be hard to be friends again. When a lie is told, it can grow bigger and bigger because you have to tell more lies to cover up the first lie. This isn't being free.**

**Sometimes, telling the truth about something seems really hard because you may think you'll get in lots of trouble. But, even if the consequences are bad, it's always better to tell the truth. You'll feel good inside knowing you told the truth.**

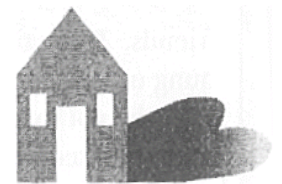
**Amanda S. Nelson**  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Rocky Mountain Elementary

**We, at Character Connection would like to focus on helping parents access character materials this year by using the web site located at [www.thecharacterconnection.com](http://www.thecharacterconnection.com). If you are interested in receiving a monthly reminder of the character traits and access to resource materials, please e-mail your address to [arlanea@isquaredinc.com](mailto:arlanea@isquaredinc.com)**

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