



POWER OF
FAMILIES

Questions and Family Activities



Comprehension Questions:

- What did Alexander find in the attic? *(an old book with a red cover)* What was in it? *(a map of Inland and swirly words at the top of 12 blank pages and at the end, a picture of a man who seems to be looking right at Alex)*
- Who is the man in the book? *(the Lightkeeper)* What does the man tell him? *(that he, Alexander, is the lost prince of Inland)*
- What is the problem in Inland? *(Erodians have crept in and the Inlanders have lost their values)*
- Who is going to be Alex's helper during his adventures? *(Theo, a tortoise)*
- What does Alexander find in the forest? *(a crown)* What does Alexander want to do with it? *(keep it)*
- What lies does he tell Ellie about the crown? *(that it belongs to him)*
- Who does the crown really belong to? *(Mirabelle)* What is she supposed to do with it? *(take care of it so that the Erodians won't get it and claim they are the rightful rulers)*
- What does Alex find when he's in his classroom taking his test? *(the teacher's answer sheet)*
- What is he tempted to do? *(use it to cheat on his test)*
- What does he end up doing? *(telling the teacher)*
- How does that make him feel?

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to be honest?
- What are the problems with telling lies or being dishonest? *(you feel bad, people might find out, people won't trust you, you have to tell more lies to cover up the first lie...)*
- What does it mean to "stretch the truth"?
- Can you be dishonest when you don't say anything at all? How?
- Is it easier to tell the truth or tell a lie? What's a time that you have been tempted to do something dishonest? What did you do?

Scenarios:

- Let's say you find a \$10 bill on the floor in a store. You've been saving up for a new bike and you could really use that money! What should you do?
- Let's say you accidentally knock a picture off the wall and the glass in the frame gets broken. Your mom doesn't hear the crash. She's way upstairs. You could just throw the glass away and put the picture back up and maybe your mom wouldn't notice. What would you do? Why?
- Let's say you got a bad grade on a test at school and you're pretty sure your mom and dad will be sad and mad to see your grade. Do you really have to show the test to your parents? Or can you just work hard to get a better grade next time? What would you do?
- Let's say you made a big mess with legos in the playroom. Then your little brother came in and started playing and you took off to your friend's house. At bedtime, your mom gets angry when she sees the big mess of legos and blames your brother since he was in there most recently. She tells him he has to clean up all the legos while the other kids get to listen to mom read bedtime stories. What would you do?
- Let's say your mom said you could have a cookie when you were done with your homework. She comes in with the cookies and asks if you did your homework. You DID do your math worksheet but you didn't do your spelling exercises yet. Would it be OK to say "yes" and take a cookie?

Honesty Game and Discussion

Play this little game to help you discuss truth and falsehood and discuss the value of being considered truthful. Think about and discuss what makes a person trustworthy. While this is geared towards younger children, older children can help their younger siblings understand and will likely still enjoy the game.

Instructions:

Ask children to listen carefully to each statement you say. If it's true, they should put their thumbs up. If it's false, they should put their thumbs down. If they don't know, they should put their thumbs sideways.

Examples:

- The sky is green.
- This is my foot. (point at foot)
- Ants are bigger than elephants.
- We see with our noses.
- You like to eat broccoli. (some may do thumbs up, some thumbs down, some sideways)
- (Put a coat on the ground) I did leave my coat out.
- (Put a candy wrapper on the floor) I don't know who left that on the floor.
- It will be rainy tomorrow. (thumbs sideways)

Discussion following the Game:

We all know the difference between the truth and lies. Sometimes we can tell for sure whether something that someone says is true or not. Sometimes we really don't know. They could be telling the truth, or they could be telling us a lie.

If we KNOW the person who is telling us something, we may be able to guess whether they're telling the truth or not. Some people are generally TRUTHFUL people – and if they say something, most people believe it without questioning it.

Do you want others to think of you as a truthful person? Why? Do you know some people in your life who you can always trust? What makes you feel like you can trust them?

Additional Ideas

Parents – “Catching them being honest”: Watch for any glimmer of truth-telling from your children all month and heap praise on them when you see them being honest.

Younger Children – Honesty Chart: Keep an honesty chart for a week. As you tuck each child in bed at night, ask whether he or she told any lies, left out any truths or did something that was really honest. Mark a smiley face or a star on the chart for every time the child was honest. Mark a frowny face for any time the child was dishonest, assuring him or her that tomorrow there will be more chances to be more honest. At the end of the week, provide a special little treat or outing to celebrate all the times they were honest.

Younger Children – Honesty about Feelings: Go through a magazine (one with lots of ads and colored pictures) and point at faces saying, "How do you think he feels?" Then say, "Why do you think he feels that way?" Then say, "Is it okay to feel that way?" Help children to identify feelings and their probable causes and to know that it's okay to feel those things and to tell other people how they feel.

Older Children - Stories: Tell your older children stories about times in your life when it was hard to be honest but you did it. Invite them to share their stories and write them down in their journals.

Family Award: Introduce an “Honesty Under Pressure” award at the beginning of the week and then at the end of the week, children and parents share a time that they were honest even when it was hard. Decide together who should win the “Honesty Under Pressure” award (just make – or have your children make - a simple sign that can hang on their bedroom door for the week). Repeat each week this month.

Family Pact: Create a family honesty pact. Work together to write a “pact” that states what you all agree to as far as honesty in your dealings with family members and the rest of the world.