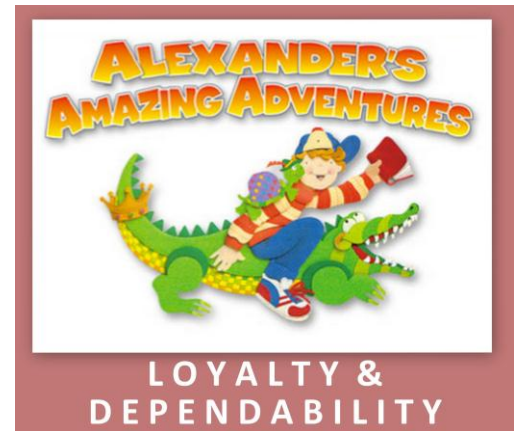


Questions and Family Activities



Comprehension Questions:

- What were Mirabelle and Elinore trying to do in this adventure? (Rescue the Star Watcher's most valued treasure) What was this treasure? (The Star Watcher's journal) What did Mirabelle ask Alexander to do? (Guard Stormhaven while they were gone)
- What did Alexander do to pass the time while he was at Stormhaven? (Read the Inlanders journals) How did Alexander feel as he read the journals? (Happy and proud)
- Who knocked on the door at Stormhaven? (Penrod the Piper) How long had Penrod had the note from Mirabelle? (3 years) Why did it take him so long to come? (He was easily distracted)
- What was the problem in the library? (There was a leak and the water would destroy the journals) What did Penrod remember he was? (A plumber)

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to be loyal?
- What does it mean to be dependable?
- What is the difference between dependability and loyalty?
- Is it important to be dependable? Why?
- Who should be able to depend on you?
- What or who should you be loyal to?
- If you are a loyal friend should you keep quiet if your friend has done something wrong? Is it okay to tell someone?

Scenarios:

Explain that the opposite of dependable is undependable and the opposite of loyal is disloyal. Read the following situations and have your children describe how the person is acting or behaving.

- Timmy's dad asked him if he would stack up some bricks in the garage. Timmy said he would, but he forgot and didn't do it. (Undependable)
- Janet's school class planned to have a car wash in the school parking lot to raise money. Those who could were asked to come and help, but no one was required to come. Even



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though she'd rather play, Janet came and brought some towels and a bucket. (Loyal -- to her school.)

- Crissy's family job was to set the table each night for dinner. She almost always remembered to do it without her mother reminding her. (Dependable)
- Tammy was with two girls on the bus one day when one of the girls said some bad things that weren't true about Tammy's best friend, Jill. Tammy didn't say anything. (Disloyal -- to her friend.)
- Jason's little sister had a soccer game one night that was very important to her. Jason had a lot of homework, but he worked hard at it until game time and then went to cheer for his sister. (Loyal -- to his sister and family)
- The elderly widow who lived next door to Mary had a favorite plant that needed watering every day. She asked Mary if she would water it for a week while she was on vacation. Mary did it for four days, but then she forgot and the plant died. (Undependable)
- Alice loved learning about her country's history and liked to sing the national anthem. She felt proud of her country. (Loyal -- to her country.)

Family Activity Ideas:

- **Balloon Juggle:** Blow up a bunch of balloons (at least one per family member). Challenge family members to keep all balloons in the air. This gets everyone moving and cooperating to do their part. Once they've got the hang of it, make it harder by adding in more balloons or placing restrictions e.g., no hands to keep balloons up. Talk about how important it is that everyone do their part whether the task is keeping balloons in the air or cleaning the house or making your neighborhood a better place.
- **Family Loyalty Pact:** Talk together about how important it is to support one another in the things that are important to each other. Talk about adopting the motto "if it's important to you, it's important to me" in your family. Talk about how you can show loyalty to family members (attend games and performances, celebrate accomplishments, show interest in what each other is doing, stand up for each other, etc.). Work together to write out a statement about loyalty to family members and have everyone sign their names to your "Family Loyalty Pact."
- **Family Traditions:** Traditions can help children feel the security of belonging to a strong and fun. As a family, talk about the traditions you have (those built around holidays or birthdays as well as daily traditions like family dinner or bedtime rituals). Decide on a couple of new traditions you might want to introduce (such as a family motto or cheer you say together each morning or evening, a tradition of setting the timer and trying to "beat your record" each night as everyone pitches in to clean up after dinner, a tradition of reading a chapter of a great book together at bedtime, everyone sharing their "sweet, sour and service" each day at dinner – the "sweetest" thing about your day, the "sourest" thing about your day, and an act of service you did that day)
- **"Count on Me" Award:** Introduce a new award that kids can be "in the running" to receive each week this month. Make a simple paper award that says "Count on Me" on it and



award it to a child who has done an especially good job completing tasks as assigned and/or doing what needs to be done without being asked. The award can be taped on the door of the award recipient for the week before it goes to someone new the next week.

Additional Ideas

- **Parents:** Make an extra effort all month to use the words “loyal” and “dependable” in your regular interactions with your children. When a child sticks up for his brother, point out how loyal that was. When a child doesn’t want to help another child, point out that that is disloyal. When a child does her job without even being asked, point out (in earshot of other kids!) that you really appreciate how dependable she is. When someone doesn’t do something they were supposed to do, point out how disappointing that is and how it make it hard to rely on someone once they’ve not been dependable.
- **True-and-False Loyalty Discussion:** Through a simple discussion, help children see the difference between helpful and true loyalty and dangerous false loyalty. Explain that some children get the idea that loyalty to friends means "not telling on them" or "keeping quiet" or even lying to protect them. This is "false loyalty." Explain that if someone has done something wrong, a truly loyal friend would try to get him to admit it, and if that didn't work, he would tell someone. If neither happens, the friend will probably keep doing wrong and get in more serious trouble.
- **Construction Analogy:** This can help children understand that "doing one's part" is a key part of loyalty. Ask children to imagine that there were 100 people who wanted to build a brick wall and that the wall would need 10,000 bricks. How many bricks would each person have to put up if they all helped? (100) How many bricks would each person have to put up if only 10 helped? (1,000) Make the point that when people are loyal, everything is more pleasant and more fair.



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