



charactercounts.org/CI

# CI COMMITMENT TO CHARACTER AND ETHICS

## CI.2 The Importance of Character



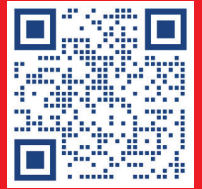
*Character develops over time. It is safe to say that character does not change quickly. Your behavior shows others your character.*



1. What does this proverb mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How can someone damage another person's character?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. There are times our words can hurt. How does what we say and do show others our character?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do you think that people decide to "damage the character" of others?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS INITIAL

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charactercounts.org/SE2

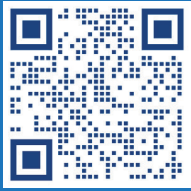


*Patience  
is learning  
to wait for  
something  
you may  
want right  
now.*

Read the following story:

Since spring would not be here for a month, Jeremy's mom decided to plant bean seeds in a small pot. Working together, they filled the pot with dirt. Then, they planted and watered the seeds. A couple of days later, Jeremy checked to see if the bean plants had started to grow. When he saw nothing but the dirt, he threw a fit and yelled at his mom. "You must have bought bad bean seeds." Mom said, "It takes time for the plants to grow. You will just have to be patient, Jeremy." About a week later, Jeremy checked out the pot sitting on a sunny spot of the windowsill. He was excited to see that small green sprouts had begun to peek out from the soil. Excitedly, he told mom what was happening. "You see, Jeremy," his mom said, "the growth has been happening below the surface. Patience does not rely only on what we can see."

1. What do you think this proverb means?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are similarities between the quote and the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If you have ever gone fishing, or grow plants from seeds, you know that patience is required. Why is it hard to be patient with things that you might want?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you ever wanted something so badly that you couldn't wait? What happened? Would it have been better to wait? Why or why not?  
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5. How would you rewrite the proverb to say something that is the opposite?  
\_\_\_\_\_



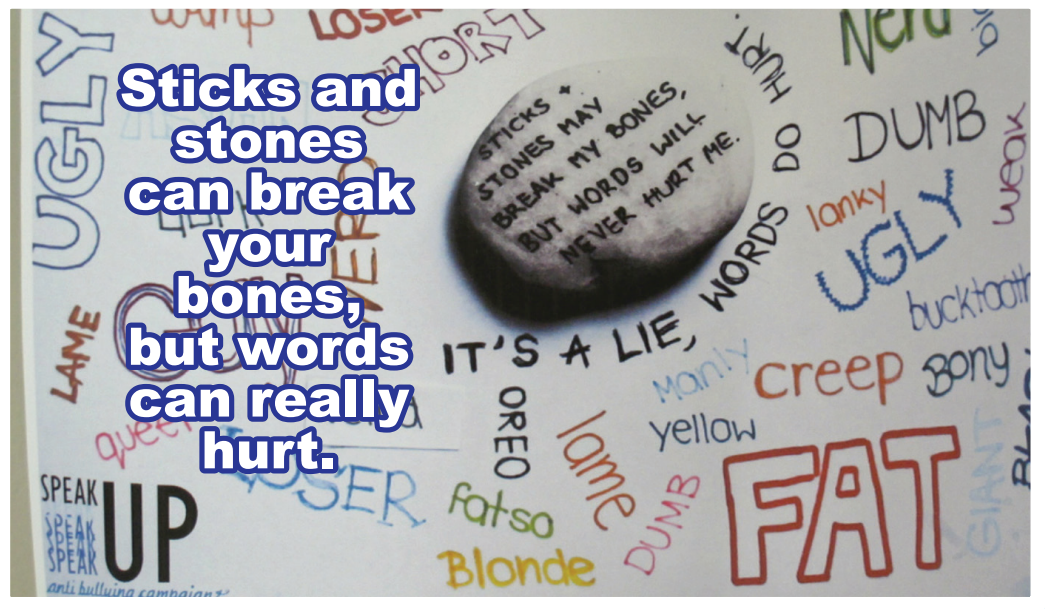
charactercounts.org/C4

# C4 RESPONSIBILITY

## C4.4 Consequences For Their Words



Choose your words carefully. There is never a good reason to hurt someone with your words. It doesn't make you smarter or better. It doesn't make anyone like you more. People who try to hurt others with their words are just mean.



- Some words can make you feel great and some words can make you feel awful. Below is a list of words. Next to each word write the word "help" if you think it's a positive word, or "hurt" if you think it's a negative word.

Nice _____	Ugly _____	Loyal _____
Cute _____	Fat _____	Mean _____
Smart _____	Care _____	Stupid _____
Support _____	Friend _____	Idiot _____

- Have you ever heard a different slogan that says, "Sticks and stones can break my bones but words will never hurt me?" Why isn't that saying true?

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- Which of the slogans, the one on the picture or the one above, is the best for you to follow as a student? Why do you feel that way?

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- What are some unkind words that were ever said to you? How did those words make you feel?

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[charactercounts.org/A5](http://charactercounts.org/A5)



**A human being is  
a deciding being. –  
Viktor E. Frankl**



*Making  
decisions  
can lead to  
consequences.  
They can be  
good or bad.*

1. List all the decision you've made since you woke up this morning. Were any important? Were some harder than others?  

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2. When we have to make an important decision, think of the stakeholders (those who will be impacted by the decision). Look at the picture. Who are the stakeholders that the boy has to keep in mind?  

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3. After the stakeholders, we must think of the consequences of our choice. What was the last hard decision you had to make? How did you make your decision? Did you think for a long time? A short time?  

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4. When you make a choice it is good to "pillarize" the decision. What does this mean?  

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5. If you make a decision that puts one of the pillars into action, it will most likely be a good decision. Do you agree? Explain your answer.  

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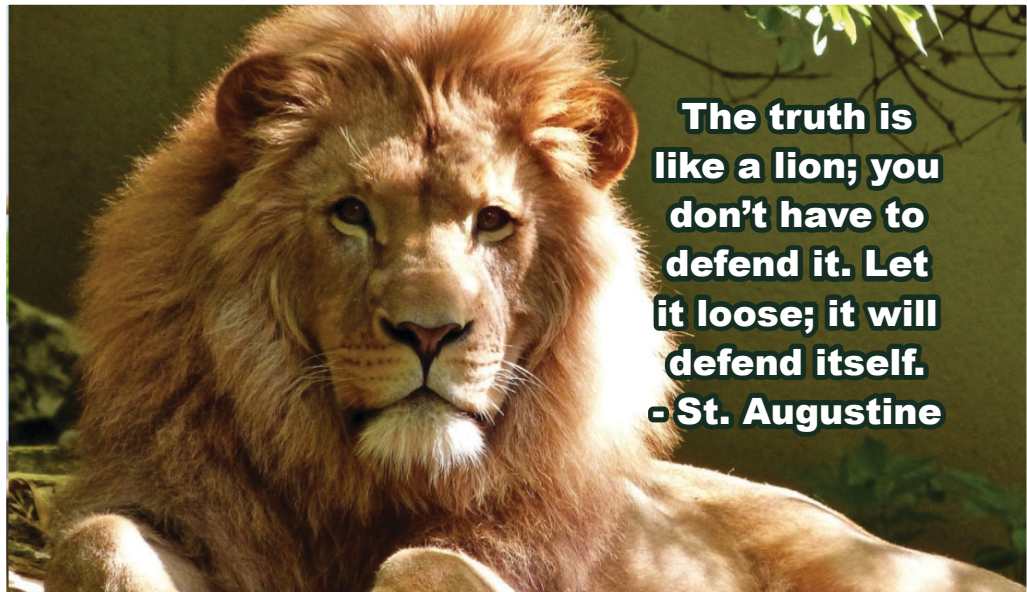
charactercounts.org/C2

# C2 TRUSTWORTHINESS

## C2.1 Integrity

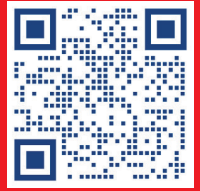


*Being trustworthy is important. What you say has to be trusted by your family and friends.*



**The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Let it loose; it will defend itself.  
- St. Augustine**

1. What does this quote mean? How is it connected to trustworthiness?  
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2. What is the link between the picture and the quote?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When someone says that they hope you are a person of integrity, what do they mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the expression “walk your talk” mean? Do you know people like that? What do you think of them? Do you know people who don’t “walk their talk?” What do you think of them?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does trust have to do with honesty?  
\_\_\_\_\_

[charactercounts.org/SE2](https://charactercounts.org/SE2)

**The most wasted  
of all days is one  
without laughter.  
– E.E.Cummings**



*Sometimes  
it's not  
proper to  
laugh. But,  
sometimes,  
laughing  
is the best  
thing you  
can do.  
You don't  
have to  
take things  
seriously all  
the time.  
It's okay to  
laugh.*

1. When was the last time you can remember really laughing?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What happened that made you laugh?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did laughing make you feel?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you ever laughed at the wrong time? When? Why was it wrong to laugh?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Write down a time when it's not proper to laugh.  
\_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS INITIAL





charactercounts.org/C5

# C5 FAIRNESS

## C5.2 Making Fair Decisions



*There will be times when you are unfairly blamed for something. The important thing to remember is to be kind to yourself. Everyone has the right to be treated fairly in all situations.*



**To blame is easy; to do it better is difficult. – German proverb**

1. Write about a time you were unfairly blamed for something. What happened? Why was it unfair for the person to blame you?

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2. In what ways do you treat your friends fairly? In what ways do you treat your parent(s) fairly?

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3. Why is it hard to be fair?

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4. Do you have any responsibility if you see someone being treated unfairly? Why or why not?

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PARENTS INITIAL