



Growing Young Americans

Through Award-Winning Literature

Name of the Book: _____

All-American Character Traits

Check the characteristics that you observe in _____.

Character's Name

Being Honest

- Honesty is refusing to consider a decision which I know is not right.
- Honesty is devoting all my energy to a course of action which I know is right.
- Honesty is telling the truth regardless of the consequences.
- Honesty is an action that expresses respect for others and respect for ourselves.

Being Loyal

- Loyalty is putting my country first, standing up for its traditional values, and protecting it from enemies.
- Loyalty is adjusting my schedule to meet the needs of those I am serving.
- Loyalty is standing with those I am serving in their time of need.
- Loyalty is being a reliable messenger to those I am serving.
- Loyalty is knowing and following the wishes of those responsible for me.
- Loyalty is knowing which way to turn when given a choice.
- Understanding that my loyalty is a great gift and using care in deciding who receives it.

Being Responsible

- Responsibility is learning my country's history and its laws, and working to keep it good and strong.
- Responsibility is using all of my energies to fulfill the expectations of those who are counting on me.
- Responsibility is completing a task so that it will endure testing.
- Responsibility is doing good without having to receive the credit.
- Responsibility is taking charge of ourselves and our conduct.
- Responsibility is exhibiting moral, legal, and mental accountability for my choices, regardless of pressures to do otherwise.

Having Compassion

- Compassion is crying a tear for someone else's skinned knee.
- Compassion is feeling like someone else's problem is your own.
- Compassion is being concerned for someone who is not as fortunate as you.
- Compassion is walking a mile in another person's shoes.
- Compassion is standing by others when they are sad or in trouble.
- Compassion is loving someone else more than you love yourself.
- Compassion is sharing a problem with another person who is very different from you.
- Compassion is doing to others what you would have them do to you.

Being Courageous

- Valuing freedom and understanding that it is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it. Pericles
- Courage is refusing to give up what I want in the future for what I want right now.
- Courage is responding to danger without thought of retreat.
- Courage is applying the resources I have in creative ways when faced with overwhelming odds.
- Courage is following difficult instructions in the face of danger.
- Courage is confronting an opponent with the confidence that I will ultimately succeed.
- Courage is the power to let go of the familiar.
- Courage is commanding the butterflies in your stomach to all fly in the same direction.
- Courage is knowing what ought to be feared and how not to fear what ought not to be feared.
- Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.

Being Willing to Sacrifice

- Sacrifice is giving up something I value for someone else's value more.
- Sacrifice is laying down my life for a friend.
- Sacrifice is giving up something fun for something else that strengthens me.