

Issue Two: Trustworthy – Discussion Guide

Before you read:

What does it mean to be trustworthy?

How do people earn your trust?

What happens when trust is broken?

Why is trust important in all kinds of relationships? Family, friends, partners?

Editor's Note:

Editors decide what each issue will be about and ask writers and artists to submit work to them. They read all the pieces submitted and decide which to include in the magazine. After that, they design the issue by putting everything together from deciding what order to put things in, which artwork goes with which writing piece, and what art will be the cover. They make everything look like it goes together in one book.

Why is it important for writers and artists to trust an editor?

What happens if an editor does a bad job?

As you read the magazine, ask yourself:

Why did the editors put this piece of art with this piece of writing?

Why do you think the editors chose to include this writing or art?

What about this piece might have made it stand out to the editors?

Author Interview:

What are some important things the author says good writers do?

What if anything do you have in common with the main characters?

What does a reader trust an author to do?

Does an author have to trust their readers in any way? How?

What theme would you want to include in your book if you wrote one?

What books have you read recently that have themes about trust?

Poetry:

Secret Keeper, by McLord Selasi

Why is it important to keep some kinds of secrets?

What do secrets have to do with trust?

If someone told your secret, how would you feel?

How do you know when it's okay to share a secret?
What are some reasons you wouldn't keep a secret?
How important is trust in a friendship?

A Little Thing, by Lauri C. Meyers

What does owning a pet have to do with trust?
How do the lines in the poem tell us the dog trusts its owner?
Give an example of how you know the owner trusts the dog.
How would this poem be different if there was no trust between them?

The Basketball Pass, by Mike Flowers

Read this poem out loud. Did you notice the rhyming pattern?
If you didn't know the title of the poem, how could you tell what it was about?
Why is trust important between these two friends? On teams? In other sports?

Steps to Win the Race, by David McMullin

Notice how the poem is structured. How is the structure related to the title?
Who is the writer trusting in this poem?
Why do you think the author never says which choice is correct?
How is trusting yourself different from trusting others?

The Trust-O-Meter, by Genesis Pearl

What does the Trust-O-Meter represent in this poem?
How does the Trust-O-Meter help the person in the poem?
What do you think of the idea that trust is something that can be measured?
Why is it important to tell the truth?
The poem talks about trust bouncing back. What are ways you can repair trust once it has been broken?

Flashlight, by Lisa Roullard

Why is it important to take care of things we borrow?
What happens when we don't?
Is following rules a form of trust? Why or why not?
What do you think the narrator felt worse about—the broken flashlight or lying?

Have you ever been caught in a lie? How did that make you feel?

People I Trust, by Finn Rotert (Young poet feature)

What is the pattern in the structure of the poem?

What are some reasons the author gives for trusting people? Which reasons help you trust others?

How do you know if someone is trustworthy?

Fiction:

PowerUpPlus, by Ian Brownlie

Have you ever come across something unexpected?

What would you do if a mysterious app appeared on your phone?

When do you think Mitra realized what was happening?

What would you have done in Mitra's shoes?

Was Mitra right or wrong to keep using the app?

How does this story connect to the theme of trustworthy?

Is Mitra a trustworthy person?

Would you choose her to be a hero? Why or why not?

Sweetest Surprises in the Littlest Kingdom, by Joel Glover

Personification is when an author gives an animal or object the characteristics of humans.

Where do you see personification in this story?

Why do you think Albert considers the tree "his tree?"

Albert doesn't seem to be worried about sharing the tree's secret; why do you think that is?

What is the difference between a secret and a surprise?

Do you agree that the pies would have been better as a surprise?

Should the tree have told Albert why the yummy apples were a secret?

How can you earn back trust once it's been lost?

The Coin, by Zary Fekete

The author says, "I was the American and had already learned it was better to nod."

Why do you think he says *the* American? Why would it be better to nod?

How does it feel to be the odd one out?

Where do you see the theme of "trustworthy" in this story?

Young Fiction Highlights

There are lots of names for these kind of stories, like illustrated story, comic, or graphic story. Longer ones are often called graphic novels.

Why might an author prefer one of these names over another?

T-Rex and Bat, by Ethan Houlihan

How does the author rely on illustrations to tell the story?

Could this story work with just the text or just the pictures?

Do you think the bat will trust the T-rex in the future? Why or why not?

Telling the Truth, by Madelyn Houlihan

How are the speech bubbles and thought bubbles different?

How does the author use colors and shapes to express emotions?

Can you tell what order to read the boxes in? What helps you tell?

Why is it important to express your feelings?

What are kind ways to show your feelings?

Why is it important to tell the truth?

Tag, by Abigail Houlihan

Where did the author use words to help show what was happening in the pictures?

Was this helpful?

Why is the girl in the blue dress able to realize something is wrong?

How can we help people when they are hurt?

How does helping show we are trustworthy?

Can you see how the girl in the purple dress learns from her accident?

Art:

What do you observe about the piece?

Is there anything that immediately stands out to you?

What art style is this piece in?

How do you think the artist came up with the title?

How do you think this piece reflects the idea of “trustworthy?”