**Making Friends**

By Gianna M.

You slowly travel throughout the halls on your first day of school feeling that horrible banging in your stomach. The smell of newly sharpened pencils wafts into your nose. You feel as if your heart is beating a mile a minute! Yet again, you turn another corner as you wonder, “Will my teacher be nice? Will I like this school? Will I make any friends? How can I be a good friend?” Being a good friend includes vital qualities. These qualities that a superior friend should have include being a loyal friend, being a kind friend, and being flexible. (Not in the gymnastics type way.) Let’s hop on the friend train and we’ll get started!

To begin with, most kids are looking for a friend who is loyal. Most people know the word loyal, but don’t understand what it actually means to be a loyal friend. First, being loyal doesn’t mean you must be by your friend’s side all the time, it only means that you won’t ditch your friend. For example, if you promise to play with your friend the next day at recess, then make sure to play with them! Nothing hurts a friend more promising to play something, and then the next day you are playing with someone else. Show your friend that you keep your promises because then you’ll be invited to play with them even more! One time when I was playing at recess, my friend came over to me and said, “My friend promised to play with me today, but she never came! She used the excuse, ‘Oh, I forgot!’” Before deciding to basically “ditch” a friend, think about how much you care about this person. Some people call this leaving a friend in the dust. If you do play something else without telling your friend when you promised to play with them, be prepared to have a talk with them after.

To add to that, to be a good friend you must also be kind. When most people hear about the golden rule, they usually say, “I’ve heard that so many times before! Can’t you tell that I know what it means?” Think about it…do you? A kind friend like to help other friends (even enemies) even if it means that the kind friend would sacrifice something. For example, in a book I read called “Confessions of a Corn Kid,” the main character and her enemy are against each other in a school trying to win a scholarship. When the enemy gets sick on performance night and has no chance at making the scholarship, the kind girl gives a video to tape to the judges of her enemy during dress rehearsal. The main character sacrificed her chances of getting the scholarship for her enemy. Also, being a kind friend is expressed by random acts of kindness. Like picking up a pencil for your friend, or taking them to the nurse when they get hurt. My dad says, “A random act of kindness is like a chain…it goes around the world and then comes right back to you.” It always pays off to do a random act of kindness.

Finally, an awesome friend is also flexible. (Not in the gymnastics type way.) You must be open to change. For example if your friend starts playing a new game, you most certainly don’t have to play it every day! It would be nice if you found a way to play a game one day, and then another the next day. This is being flexible! You are willing to give up your game for a day and play with your friend because they are important to you. Your friend will do the same for you! This concept can make you as happy as a dog with a new chew toy! Being flexible also includes compromising. Let’s say that you’re with your two best friends playing at recess. One friend wants to play gaga, and the other friend wants to play tag. You can take the two games and mix them together to create gaga tag! (Kind of like hide and go seek tag.)

In conclusion, being a good friend includes vital qualities. These qualities include: being loyal, being kind, and being flexible. (Not in the gymnastics type way!) Now that you know what a good friend is, you feel confident enough to go have some fun and make the most of your year. Remember this, you’re not the first nor the last person to be new to a school.