

## Give to a True Friend



Grade: 6



30 minutes

“A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow.”  
– William Shakespeare

### Lesson Summary

The focus is on Circle of Obligation #2: Family and Friends.

This lesson will ask students to focus on friends in their second Circle of Obligation. Through songs, students will learn how they can show their appreciation to their closest friends. They will also investigate what they can do to foster their friendships.

### Students will Examine

- The qualities of a true friend.
- How friendships can change as we grow.
- The give and take of friendship.



### MATERIALS

Worksheet: Circles of Obligation (PDF | [Google](#))  
Worksheet: Friendship in Music (PDF | [Google](#))  
Teacher note: [Practicing Gratitude](#)  
Jamboard: [True Friends](#)  
Exit Ticket (PDF | [Google](#))



### MEDIA TO PREP

Slides: [Give to a true friend](#)  
Songs:  
“[Lean on Me](#)” (Bill Withers)  
“[Count on Me](#)” (Bruno Mars)  
“[Gift of a Friend](#)” (Demi Lovato)  
“[Stand By Me](#)” (Ben E. King)  
“[Brother](#)” (NEEDTOBREATHE)  
“[Umbrella](#)” (Rihanna)  
“[You’ve got a Friend in Me](#)” (Randy Newman)

## SHARE

### GRATITUDES

Students record two things about a true friend(s) that they’re grateful for on the Worksheet: My Gratitudes (PDF | [Google](#)). They should write one specific gratitude, and one more general gratitude.



### TEACHER TIP

Have students fill out the Worksheet: My Gratitudes (PDF | [Google](#)) throughout the program; this exercise will be part of the final “Give Your Gratitude” prompt. Read more here: [Practicing Gratitude](#).

## PARTNER SHARE

Students find a partner and discuss:

- Their last gift and how it made them feel.
- How they take care of themselves. Explain what's different about how they care for themselves and how they care for friends / family?
- Are they better at caring for themselves or others? Explain.



### TEACHER TIP

If students experience difficulty reflecting on personal friendships, invite them to reflect on friendships they've learned about through books, TV, movies, etc.

# THINK • GIVE

Explain that today's lesson is about the importance of true friends. It's a two way street – others' actions can have a large effect on us, just like we can have a big impact on those we're close to.

Students pull up their Worksheet: Circles of Obligation ([PDF](#) | [Google](#)).

Discuss:

- Have you listed a true friend in your second Circle?
- What makes them a true friend?
- What are some qualities you would use to describe your true friend?

Help students understand that a true friend is not defined by how long they've known each other or where they live. A true friend sees you at your best and at your worst, they are someone you've gotten along well with AND someone with whom you've had a disagreement.

## Friendship in Songs

There are many songs written about friendship. Listen to the lyrics of some songs to see what's important about friendship to these artists.

Students form pairs. Hand out the Worksheet: Friendship in Music ([PDF](#) | [Google](#)). Assign a song to each student pair. They pick out the qualities of friendship highlighted in the lyrics on the worksheet (Side 1), then they listen to the entire song and add other qualities. When finished, they answer the questions on Side 2 of the worksheet.

Songs:

"[Lean on Me](#)" – Bill Withers

"[Count on Me](#)" – Bruno Mars

"[Gift of a Friend](#)" – Demi Lovato

"[Stand By Me](#)" – Ben E. King

"[Brother](#)" – NEEDTOBREATHE

"[Umbrella](#)" – Rihanna

"[You've got a Friend in Me](#)" – Randy Newman

Discuss student answers and record qualities of a true friend on whiteboard / chart paper / Jamboard: [True Friends](#).



### TEACHER TIP

Remind students that before they give gifts to others, it's important to check in with themselves to make sure they're in a good emotional space. Looking back at our Circles of Obligation, our first and most inner circle (ourselves) needs to be strong and stable before we can expand into other circles.



### CONNECTION

Website: [Word it Out](#). Make a word cloud with the qualities that students generate.

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# REFLECT

Explain that friendship is about give and take. It's important to consider whether we're holding ourselves up to the same standards as we hold our friends. Everyone deserves a true friend, which means we all need to work to become the truest friends to others that we can be.

## Journaling:

Students think about their list of qualities of a true friend, and write down which qualities they feel they bring to their friendships. Students journal for five minutes, using the following questions to help them think about friendship and their role in their various friendships.

## Required:

- Do you personally have some of the same qualities that you believe make a true friend? Why or why not?

## Additional Guiding Questions:

- What are your obligations as a true friend?
- How might a friendship change when one friend is putting a lot of effort into a friendship, while the other friend isn't?
- How might friends move between your Circles of Obligation?
- How might you move between a friend's Circle of Obligation?

## 📺 DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Video: [Friendship and Social Media](#) (2:58). How has social media impacted your friendships? Have you become friends with people online? How are those friendships different? How are they the same?

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# CONNECT + CLOSE

## Take Action

For this prompt, appreciate a true friend. When you're giving to a friend, consider what they might want or need. Pay attention, be kind, and be true.

## Brainstorm

Brainstorm true ways they might give to a true friend. Remind students that they don't have to give the gifts they have brainstormed.

## Things to Consider

- The ThinkGive Three focus is on True. make sure your gift is authentic.
- Think about the qualities of a true friend, and the qualities you believe you possess as a friend.
- What are your obligations as a true friend?

## ★ THINKGIVE THREE

1. True: be authentic
2. Small: simple gifts have big impact
3. Brave: step into your courage zone

## Closing Quote

Use this quote and questions as an Exit Ticket ([PDF](#) | [Google](#)) or a quick way to wrap up the lesson.





“A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow.” – William Shakespeare

- What does this quote mean to you?
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## Sample Gifts

- I gave support to my friend when she let in a goal in hockey. It wasn't her fault and I didn't want her to feel bad.
- I gave to a friend who's been sick all week. I texted or called every day to make her feel better, and I left a note on her doorstep.
- Someone said some mean things to my friend, and I asked if she was okay and we went to find a teacher she could talk to.
- A friend has been going through some hard times at home, and has been feeling crushed. I was there for her when she was sad.

## Student Journal Questions

-  What are your responsibilities as a friend?
-  Have you ever felt disappointed or let down by a friend? What was it that made you feel this way?
-  Do you think being a friend is always easy? Why or why not?
-  Do you have a friendship that has changed overtime? How so?

## Extensions

### DO

#### Family Interview

Interview a family member to learn about a true friendship in their life. Try to learn as many details as you can. What about the friendship made it so strong? How did the friendship start? Was there ever a time when the friendship wasn't strong? If so, why?

#### Diamante Poem

Write a diamante poem in which the first noun is a friend's name. Then share it with that friend! Template [here](#).

## DO

### Who is a Friend to Me?

Reflect on one of your peers who would put you in their Circle #2 (friend) and list the main reasons why you think they consider you a close friend.

## WATCH

**Video:** [Hola Llamigo](#) (3:52). This short tells the story of an unlikely friendship. The protagonist lives on a farm where he breeds piñata-llama. Life is quite boring until he befriends a slightly special llama. As their relationship intensifies, the fear of being separated forever grows.

- What are the boy's chores in the beginning of the film?
- What happens to the boy when he meets the green piñata-llama?
- What does his father realize, seeing them together?

**Video:** [Character: Friendship Basics](#) (4:29). This video provides six important words that are key to building strong, meaningful friendships.

- What does it mean to be a true friend?
- Which of the six words in the video is the most challenging for teenagers? For you personally?

## READ / LISTEN

**Book excerpts.** [Charlotte's Web](#), by E.B. White ([PDF](#)). *Charlotte's Web* celebrates an amazing, unique, and unlikely friendship. It is the story of Wilbur, a young pig trying to avoid the butcher, and a spider who helps him.

### Discuss (excerpt #1):

- What does Charlotte mean?
- How can helping a friend "lift up" the helper's life?
- Templeton is a character who would not understand Charlotte's statement at all. "The rat had no morals, no conscience, no scruples, no consideration, no decency, no milk of rodent kindness, no compunctions, no higher feeling, no friendliness, no anything" (p. 46). What would the barn be like if all the animals were like Templeton?

### Discuss (excerpt #2):

- Does Wilbur make the right decision by leaving? Why or why not?
- What gift does Wilbur give to Charlotte?

### Book quote. *Bridge to Terabithia*, by Katherine Peterson

*Bridge to Terabithia* is about the strong friendship between Jesse and Leslie and the fictional world of "Terabithia" that the two create and inhabit in their imagination. Their friendship, in fact, is what enables them to be transported to this imaginary universe that brings them joy.

**Discuss the quote (chapter 4):** "Leslie was more than his friend. She was his other, more exciting self- his way to Terabithia and all the worlds beyond."

- How does this quote connect to the qualities of a true friend? What does this relationship suggest about what a true friend is?
- What does this quote say about the power of friendship?