



Ed's Word for October is...
RESPONSIBLE

Definition: To follow through with your commitments, to be reliable, and to use good judgment in making decisions.

"Every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity an obligation; every possession a duty."

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., philanthropist (1874-1960)

"Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know that you trust him."

Booker T. Washington, educator (1856-1915)

"It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do."

Molière, French playwright (1622-73)

"When a man points a finger at someone else, he should remember that four of his fingers are pointing at himself"

Louis Nizer, lawyer and writer (1902-94)

How Can You Be More Responsible?

STOP and realize that you have a choice to make.

THINK about what might happen as a result of each choice.

LISTEN to your feelings and thoughts about the choices.

TRUST yourself to do what you know is the right thing.

ACT accordingly after you have made your decision.

Animal Care

From the way my parents were acting just days before my birthday, I thought for sure that I would finally get a horse of my own. I had spent hours dreaming of riding across the fields, feeding it apples and carrots in the barn, and the fancy saddle that would make all my friends jealous. I squealed with excitement when my father walked in to my party and announced that he had a special gift for his birthday girl. Then, my heart sank as he opened his cupped hands and presented me with a baby chick. My saddle dreams were dashed. Even though the disappointment was evident on my face, he smiled and handed me the chick. He said, "It's all yours. I think you're ready to take care of this chick by yourself."

That chick turned out to be harder to raise than I thought. I had to mend all the small holes in the chicken yard fence, feed her and take her fresh water. Some days the weather seemed too bad to have to trudge out to the chicken coop, but my father reminded me that my chicken was relying on me for its care and out the door I would go.

My next birthday rolled around without anticipation. I had given up on my dream for a horse. As I walked into the kitchen that morning, my father pointed toward a large gift-wrapped box by the back door. Tearing open the wrapper, I found a beautiful saddle with a note that read, "Take this to your new friend in the barn. With all your hard work, you have earned her."

Adapted from The Foundation for A Better Life

Responsible is...Choosing to act with self-control. Acting with consideration for others because it is the right thing to do, regardless of whether someone is watching.

You are responsible for parenting your child. Do not feel guilty about doing so.



Block 30:

Takes responsibility for self.

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Led by the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, **Character Education** is a community-wide initiative working to create a culture of character.

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