



Ed's Word for April is...  
**TRUSTWORTHY**

**Definition: To be reliable, to follow through with your responsibilities, to act in a way that will inspire others to believe in you.**

**"Depend upon yourself. Make your judgment trustworthy by trusting it. You can develop good judgment as you do the muscles of your body - by judicious, daily exercise. To be known as a man of sound judgment will be much in your favor."**

*Grantland Rice, journalist (1880-1954)*

**"How can we be trusted with big things if we're not trustworthy with things that are small? Don't allow your finer instincts to become a casualty of the little everyday crimes of ethical compromise."**

*Price Pritchett, psychologist and writer*

**"Put more trust in nobility of character than in an oath."**

*Solon, Greek lawmaker (638-559 BC)*

**How Does It All Add Up?**

- Standing up for your beliefs +
- Accepting responsibility +
- Honoring your commitments +
- Believing others will do their best +
- Following your conscience +
- Doing the right thing +

**= Deserving a Trustworthy Reputation!**

**Trustworthy is...Keeping your promises. Being loyal when loyalty is appropriate. Acting with sincerity and earning the trust of others.**

**Be trustworthy; make sure your kids know they can trust you.**

**A Trustworthy Friend**

Many years ago, there lived two friends named Damon and Pythias, who trusted each other like brothers. As a scholar, Pythias spent his days giving speeches about how no man should have unlimited power over another, and that absolute tyrants were unjust kings. One day, the King heard this speech and summoned Pythias, demanding to know how he could spread unrest among his people. The King asked Pythias to retract his statements, or face the consequences, but he said he only spoke the truth and would stand by his beliefs. The King accused him of treason and sentenced him to death. As a last request, Pythias asked to go home just long enough to put his affairs in order. The King would not allow this, as he would surely run away and never return. Damon, his friend, stepped forward and offered to act as Pythias' pledge. He would remain in the King's custody until Pythias returned. Surprised, the King accepted the trade, put Damon in prison and allowed Pythias to leave.

When Pythias did not return for several days, the King asked Damon if he regretted his offer. He did not, because he knew his friend would keep his word. Even as he was being led from the prison to accept Pythias' punishment, Damon still trusted his friend. Just then, Pythias staggered into the room. His ship had been caught in a storm and he had been attacked by bandits, but he refused to give up. The King, astonished by such devotion, revoked Pythias' sentence. He declared that he had never seen such faith and loyalty. In return for his mercy, he only asked Pythias for one thing: Teach me how to be part of so worthy a friendship.

*Adapted from Foundation for A Better Life*



**Block 35:**

Can resist negative peer pressure.  
[www.commpartnership.org](http://www.commpartnership.org)



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

[www.characteredspringfield.com](http://www.characteredspringfield.com)