

On Truth
by Nadia, former eighth grader

“Honesty; the real state of things” is how truth is defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. But what is truth? Is it a positive or negative concept? Can it build friendships or break them? I think truth can have a two-dimensional aspect.

On one hand, truthfulness is a very strong quality. You need to be able to tell the truth and be honest to build relationships. It is healthier to get into the habit of telling the truth, even if there are consequences. If you lie all your life and the truth finally comes out, you will be faced with more consequences than before. If you are a truthful person, you will gain more respect from people and build more trusting relationships.

A couple of weeks ago, I went over my friend’s house. We were planning to walk down to McDonald’s and CVS from her house, which was a pretty far distance away. I debated telling my mom this, wondering if she would let me go. In the end, I decided to stay out of trouble and avoid the consequence of my mother finding me down there without permission. Even though she was concerned, she still let me go after I informed her. However, my other friend that was also over our friend’s house didn’t tell her mother. She got into trouble for lying, and was grounded for one week.

“The truth shall set you free” (Bible, John 8:32). I avoided losing my parent’s trust by telling the truth; however, my friend didn’t. Parents and children must tell the truth to build relationships. As kids grow older and are more independent, it is their responsibility to tell the truth to their parents about where they are going. Children who tell the truth to their parents are usually more respected by their parents and have more freedom and trust. However, children who do not tell the truth are usually more restricted and in more trouble.

Although truth is beneficial, there can be another view on it. “All truth is good, but not all truth is good to say” (Anonymous African Proverb). While being honest helps, it can also be dangerous. If you are brutally honest and mean to someone, they will be hurt and you may lose them as a friend. For example, if a friend gets a haircut that they like, and you tell them it is horrible, you will probably hurt your friend. If you are constantly revealing to people your negative opinions of them (all your true feelings), more people are going to find you rude and dislike you.

Truth can be helpful and hurtful either way. It is sometimes hard to know when to tell the truth. Truth can get you respected, or truth can get you hated. In the end, one must use his or her own judgment.

