



Alexander's Amazing Adventures

Classroom Discussion Guide

Loyalty and Dependability

Part 1

- Alexander's father needs to take the baby to the doctor. What does Alexander's father say he is depending on Alexander to do? (*stay inside so he can hear the doorbell; the plumber is coming over to fix the drain.*)
- What does Alexander do when his father leaves? (*leaves the back door open while he jumps on the trampoline*)
- What is Alexander's new quest going to test? (*loyalty and dependability*)
- What does it mean to be loyal?
- What does it mean to be dependable?

Part 2

- Who did Alexander meet at Storm Haven? (*Mirabelle and Eleanor*)
- Who had recently died? (*the Star Watcher*)
- What was the Star Watcher's most valuable treasure? (*journal*)
- Who is going to Constellation Peak to get the journal? (*Mirabelle and Eleanor*)
- What did Mirabelle ask Alexander to do? (*guard Storm Haven while they were gone*)
- How do you think Alexander feels about staying behind to guard Storm Haven?
- Is it important to be dependable? Why?
- Let's say an elderly woman who lives next door to you has a favorite plant that needs watering every day. She asked you if you would water her plant for a week while she is on vacation. You did it for four days, but then you forgot and the plant died. Were you dependable or undependable? (*undependable*)

Part 3

- What did Alexander do to pass the time while he was at Storm Haven? (*read the Inlanders' journals*)
- How did Alexander feel as he read the journals? (*happy and proud*)
- What did Alexander hear at the door? (*someone knocking*)
- What is the difference between dependability and loyalty?
- What or who should you be loyal to?
- Let's say you love learning about your country's history and like to sing the national anthem. You feel proud of your country. Are you loyal or unloyal? (*loyal*)
- Let's say you are on the bus and two kids said some bad things that weren't true about your best friend. You decide not to correct the kids. Are you loyal or unloyal to your best friend? (*unloyal*)
- If you are a loyal friend should you keep quiet if your friend has done something wrong? Is it okay to tell someone?

Part 4

- Who knocked on the door at Storm Haven? (*Penrod the Piper*)
- How long had Penrod had the note from Mirabelle? (*3 years*)
- Why did it take Penrod so long to come to Storm Haven? (*he was easily distracted*)
- What was the problem in the library? (*there was a leak*)
- Let's say your chore was to set the table each night for dinner. You almost always remember to do it without someone reminding you. Are you dependable or undependable? (*dependable*)
- Who should be able to depend on you?

Part 5

- Why was Alexander scared of the pipe breaking? (*it would destroy the journals*)
- What did Penrod remember he was? (*a plumber*)
- Alexander thought his quest was to save the Star Watcher's journal. What was his actual quest? (*being dependable to stay with Storm Haven and take care of it*)
- Let's say your dad asked you to clean your room. You said you would, but you forgot and didn't do it. Were you dependable or undependable? (*undependable*)
- Let's say your school class planned to have a car wash in the school parking lot to raise money. Those who could were asked to come and help, but no one was required to come. Even though you would rather play, you came and brought some towels and a bucket. Were you loyal or unloyal to your school? (*loyal*)

Part 6

- Who was at the door at Alex's house? (*Mr. Finn, the plumber*)
- What did Mr. Finn do? (*fix the sink*)
- How did Dad feel when he got home? (*happy*)
- What are some things Alexander decided to be loyal to? (*family, values, country, school, church, friends*)
- What are some things you want to be loyal to? How can you be loyal?
- What things does your family depend on you to do?
- What are some things your friends depend on you to do?

Loyalty and Dependability Game and Discussion

Play this game to help you discuss loyalty and dependability and discuss the value of being considered loyal and dependable. Think about and discuss what makes a person loyal and dependable.

Balloon Juggle

Instructions:

Blow up a bunch of balloons (at least one for each person). Challenge students to keep all balloons in the air. This gets everyone moving and cooperating to do their part. Once they've got the hang of it, make it harder by adding in more balloons or placing restrictions, e.g., no hands to keep balloons up.

Discussion following the Game:

Talk about how important it is that everyone do their part whether the task is keeping balloons in the air or cleaning the classroom or making your school a better place. Tasks are easier when everyone is doing their part.