

CARR HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Commitment Aspiration Resilience Respect

Carr Hill writes

Essay writing challenge for all years

Spring 2023: What makes a good friend?

KEY DETAILS

Title: What makes a good friend?

Deadline: 4PM Friday 24th March

Submission: Hand in to Mr Churm in room 31, or email to dchurma@carrhill.lanes.sch.uk

Word count: Anywhere between 500 and 2000 words

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

You need to write an essay that answers the question, "What makes a good friend?" Before you start writing, read the introduction below to get you thinking. There is also an optional additional reading list to give you some more ideas and inspiration. You can read some of the articles if you like, and do additional research and reading. In your essay, you can mention any reading you do and ideas you find. Above all, enjoy reading about the topic and have fun writing your essay. If you want any help or advice, or have any questions, speak to Mr Churm.

INTRODUCTION

Most people realise that it's good to have friends, but do we know what a good friend is? Throughout history people have had different ideas about what friendship means and what it should look like. Maybe a good friend is simply someone you enjoy spending time with? Perhaps good friendships are those where everyone gets something out of it? Ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle thought that real friendships were those where both people admired the other person's character. More recently, philosopher and sociologist JS Mill thought that the best friendships prioritised learning together over having fun together. Mark Zuckerberg (CEO of Facebook) thinks that good friends share a lot of information about themselves to really know and appreciate each other. So, what do we look for in friends? How do we know if a friend is 'good', and what's the point of having friends anyway? **What makes a good friend?**

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL READING LIST (these articles are in order of complexity/difficulty, so the first ones are most straightforward and easiest to access):

- ThoughtCo - 'Quotes about friendship from some of the greatest thinkers in time'
<https://www.thoughtco.com/best-friendship-quotes-2670520>
- Wonderopolis - 'What does it mean to be a good friend?'
<https://wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-good-friend>
- Encyclopedia Britannica - 'Friendship'
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/friendship>
- Definitions of 'Friendship' from Oxford University Press
[Friendship definitions.pdf](#)
- Psychology Today - 'The 13 Essential Traits of Good Friends'
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/lifetime-connections/201503/the-13-essential-traits-good-friends>
- Medium - 'What great philosophers teach us about friendship'
<https://medium.com/mind-cafe/what-great-philosophers-teach-us-about-friendship-a7a9c9e3add1>
- WebMD - 'How to be a good friend'
<https://www.webmd.com/balance/features/how-be-good-friend>
- Big Think - '3 kinds of friendship, according to Aristotle'
<https://bigthink.com/personal-growth/do-you-have-true-friendships-why-aristotle-thinks-you-dont/>
- New York Times - 'How to be a better friend'
<https://www.nytimes.com/guides/smarterliving/how-to-be-a-better-friend>
- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy - 'Friendship'
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/friendship/>
- Forbes online - 'Has Social Media Ruined the Idea of Friendship?'
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/irabedzow/2021/01/13/has-social-media-ruined-the-idea-of-friendship/?sh=55292d374e75>
- Psychology Today - 'The Philosophy of Friendships' (in three parts)
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/hidden-and-see/201204/the-philosophy-friendship#:~:text=Plato%20and%20Aristotle%20both%20give,concept%20of%20friendship%20or%20philia%20>
- You may also want to watch some of these TED talks about friendship -
<https://www.ted.com/topics/friendship>