

Honesty is Truly the Best Policy

Nathan Curtolo

To me, honesty is one of the most important things a person can have in life. I find that when a person is honest, that shows a deeper level of character and that can lead to a deeper level of trust.

Ever since I was young, I've thought this way. When I was only 6 years old, just a first grader, I remember this one experience that happened to me. I was in the store with my mom and sister, and we were always coloring in school when we had extra time. I had to borrow crayons from the teacher, and when you're 6 years old you want your own things! So, not knowing it was wrong, I snuck a 24-pack of crayons and a pack of tic-tac mints into my pockets.

My mom went through the check out and she paid and we left the store, with the items in my pockets. That night we went out to eat, and at this restaurant they gave out a coloring sheet for little kids. Me knowing I have this brand new pack of crayons in my pocket, I took them out and started coloring. In front of my parents. My mom saw and asked me where I got the crayons from. I panicked and didn't know what to say so I just said nowhere and shoved the crayons back in my pocket. My parents gave each other "the look" and asked me to take the crayons out of my pocket. In the midst of me grabbing the crayons, they heard the tic-tacs rattle in their box. They, of course, asked me what that was as well. I, my face now red as a tomato, took out the pack of tic-tacs and laid them on the table with the crayons. We finished dinner, and my mom knew what she had to do.

We got in the car to drive home, but I noticed we weren't going the direction we usually go. It turns out she drove back to the grocery store. She pulls in and I feel a pit in my stomach, I don't feel good. She makes me get out of the car and walk back into the store. She's holding my hand as she walks up to the same cashier and she makes me tell her that I stole a pack of crayons and a pack of tic-tacs. The cashier was understanding, and she laughed it off and joked around. My

mom made me put back the tic-tacs since it was unopened, but I got to keep the crayons, after paying, which made me happy.

Overall, this interaction taught me a huge life lesson in honesty. Since that moment I've tried to be honest to myself and to other people, and that is something I stand by. Honesty truly is the best policy, and to me it's the most redeeming quality in a person.