



D Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy
in *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

Little Women proves that your blood relations, however different they are from you, can establish an **unbreakable** tie with you and become your most intimate friends. The novel is the story of a nuclear family consisting of four sisters, aged from twelve to sixteen, and their mother. This is a rough time for both the family and the country – the father is away serving as chaplain in the US Civil War. The second oldest, Jo, doesn't condone the idea of any of them ever getting married because she feels this would destroy the emotional bond between them. But as they pass from girlhood to womanhood, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy remain **devoted** friends and **back** one another **unconditionally** against all the odds.

E Horatio and Hamlet
in *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

Best friends stand by you through thick and thin and Prince Hamlet is in dire need of succour. King Hamlet was assassinated by his brother, Claudius, who married the protagonist's mother shortly after the murder to ascend the throne of Denmark. King Hamlet's ghost pleads with his son to avenge his tragic death and the young prince decides to feign madness in order to confuse his enemies. Horatio, Prince Hamlet's faithful friend, is the only person that can be trusted with his morally controversial plans. Hamlet's attempt on Claudius's life fails and (SPOILER ALERT! But is there anyone who doesn't know this classic story?) after a series of bloody murders Horatio is the only survivor to recount the protagonist's story. Had Hamlet lived, he would definitely have **appreciated** his loyal friend's love and unwavering support that proved to be stronger than life.

F Jules, Ethan, Jonah, Cathy, Goodman and Ash
in *The Interestings* by Meg Wolitzer

Six artistically gifted teenagers, Jules, Ethan, Jonah, Cathy, Goodman and Ash, meet at a summer camp in 1974. They form a group called 'The Interestings', which is the starting point for a lifelong **bond**. This compelling story tracks the characters' lives over a period of several decades. Their friendship is a **complex** one and Wolitzer manages to show a full range of emotions in a very accurate portrayal of the multiple relationships they develop within the group. Love and **resentment**, equanimity and jealousy are all involved. At the end of the day, being **envious** of a friend is just as natural as being happy for them. The reader sees the characters growing up and slowly aging as the sequence of events unfolds over time. It is incredibly interesting to observe how their friendship adapts to the ever-changing conditions of life.

4 In your notebook, write the correct forms of the words in blue in the article for each gap.

You make a lifelong **1 bond** with a friend. It's a tie that is **2 ?**. Of course, as you get older, the relationship develops and it **3 ?** and **4 ?**. If that doesn't happen, then you can't **5 ?** the friendship and you stop being friends. A **6 ?** friend will always **7 ?** and **8 ?** you no matter what your **9 ?** are. They will accept you **10 ?**. It's true that friendships are **11 ?** and that makes them difficult to describe. I don't believe a good friend ever feels **12 ?** or is **13 ?** of what you have. A true friend will always be happy for you.

FOCUS ON WORDS | Word pairs

5 1.7 In your notebook, match the words from boxes A and B. Listen and check. Then write an example sentence for each pair of words.

A	1 a captivating	4 a compelling	7 a privileged
	2 an accurate	5 to condone	8 spoiler
	3 to offer	6 to sing	9 poverty-
B	alert background	an idea insight	narrative
	portrayal sb's praises	story stricken	

1 a captivating narrative

6 In your notebook, write the appropriate word from the box for each gap.

associate	bond	count	envious	faced
facet	insight	portrayal	stand	trust

The article helps us to understand how complex friendships can be and gives us some light-hearted **1 insight into** the different ways that they can work. Each section reveals a different **2 ?** of friendship. The article gives a **3 ?** of the relationship and of the **4 ?** between different kinds of people. It shows how people sometimes **5 ?** with people from different backgrounds and how friendship is often a mixture of good and bad feelings: **6 ?** with difficulties, friends can be **7 ?** of each other as well as willing to **8 ?** by and support each other. In the end, though, friends **9 ?** each other with all their secrets because they know a true friend will always be loyal. You just know you can **10 ?** on them to sing your praises!

7 SPEAKING In pairs, discuss one of the topics below using words from Exercises 4, 5 and 6.

- A relationship with a childhood friend that has evolved over the years.
- A difficult relationship with a sibling.
- A film about friendship that you have seen.