

New Book for Tweens and Teens Explains How to Tell Real Friends from the Other Kind

Part graphic novel, part practical life skills, REAL FRIENDS VS. THE OTHER KIND by Annie Fox is here to help. The second book in the Middle School Confidential™ series, it follows a tight-knit group of fictional seventh graders--Jen, Jack, Michelle, Chris, Mateo, and Abby--as they work to strengthen friendships while navigating tough social situations.

Minneapolis, MN ([PRWEB](#)) June 30, 2009 -- What makes someone a "real friend"?

"A true friend has my back and will stick with me no matter what. He keeps my business private, and he appreciates and respects me."--Justin, 11

"The friends I'm closest with are always truthful, even when the truth may hurt. They are always looking out for my best interests."--Lucia, 14

When it comes to the middle school years, it can feel like everything is changing at once, especially friendships. Will you still be friends with the kids you were close to in elementary school? How will you make new friends? And what is a real friend, anyway?

Written by an expert on tween and teen issues, REAL FRIENDS VS. THE OTHER KIND offers insider information on making friends, resolving disputes, and dealing with common hazards of the middle school social scene--like gossip, exclusion, and cyberbullying. There's also expert advice on crushes, peer pressure, and being there for friends who need help. Filled with character narratives, quizzes, quotes from real kids, and resources, this book is a survival guide for the middle school years.

REAL FRIENDS VS. THE OTHER KIND offers middle schoolers helpful, realistic advice on how to:

- Identify what being a friend means to you--and what it doesn't.
- Stand up for beliefs and resolve conflicts with friends.
- Deal with peer pressure, especially from someone you consider a friend.
- Reach out to friends who seem to need help.

"This book lays out a guide for finding out who your real friends are with added tips on how to be a great friend."
--Joe Bruzzese, author of A Parents' Guide to the Middle School Years

About the author

Annie Fox, M.Ed., graduated from Cornell University with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies and completed her master's in Education at the State University of New York at Cortland. After a few years teaching in the classroom, computers changed her life and she began to explore how technology could be used to empower teens.

Annie has since contributed to many online projects, including as creator, designer, and writer for the The InSite--a Web site for teens taking on life's challenges. She also answers questions for the Hey Terra! feature as

an online advisor for teens. Her Internet work (www.anniefox.com) has contributed to the publication of multiple books, including *Too Stressed to Think?* and the *Middle School Confidential* series. Annie also is available for public speaking engagements and workshop presentations on teen and parenting issues.

When not answering Hey Terra! letters, Annie enjoys yoga, meditation, cooking, hiking, traveling, and, most of all, spending time in California, where she lives with her husband, David, and the rest of her family.

About the Illustrator

Matt Kindt was born in 1973 to a pair of artistically supportive parents. Living briefly in New York, Matt has spent most of his years in the Midwest, and the last 15 years in Webster Groves, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. In middle school, he would often create mini-comics featuring the teachers, to the delight of his fellow classmates. Matt is the Harvey Award-winning writer and artist of the graphic novels *Super Spy* and *2 Sisters* and co-creator of the *Pistolwhip* series. He has been nominated for four Eisner and three Harvey Awards. In addition to graphic novels, Matt also works as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer. When he is not working, Matt enjoys long trips to the playground with his wife and daughter.

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