

The pillar I value the most in helping me make right choices is fairness. I try to treat everyone with fairness. This is important to me because I know how it feels to be treated unfairly. I have watched my autistic brother be treated unfairly. It makes me feel confused and powerless. I do not want to make other people feel that way. Instead I want to make others feel good about themselves.

I try to be fair to my brother. He learns from my example. If I am fair to him, he will be fair to others. Not everyone understands my brother. He has a hard time putting his thoughts into words, so kids have a hard time being friends with him. I try to be fair to him by treating him like he is just like everyone else. This is not always easy, but it is the fair thing to do. Either way, whether easy or hard, he is still my brother and that is how I like it.

When I meet new people, I am always willing to be their friend. I do not think it is fair to judge people that you do not know. It makes people feel terrible. Since you do not know them, you do not know what they are like on the inside. You might miss a good opportunity to meet someone just like you.

When I look at people I respect, I see that they are fair and impartial judges of other people. That motivates me to try to be like them. I want to be like my parents and grandparents. They are examples of fairness because they are kind and do not judge people. They understand when I make mistakes and try to help me learn from them. My hockey coaches are also good examples of fairness. They encourage me to make good choices. They have taught me about sportsmanship and how to be a good teammate. Through these experiences I have learned to value fairness as the most important pillar of character.