

TORI ALLEN



leader
for life

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Climbing, Youngest woman to summit The Nose, El Capitan, Yosemite, Calif.; 2002 X Games gold medalist

Leadership means doing what is right, being strong and not being afraid to go out of the box to be different – even if that means standing out in school or not being popular. At school, you're getting your lunch and the so-called "popular" people say, "Oh, come sit with me," but someone is sitting all alone, so you go sit with them. That is leadership.

I think I'm a leader. But I mess up. I give-in to peer pressure sometimes, just like everyone. The more that you're around it, the easier it gets. If you say no one time, the next time it's going to be a little bit easier. The more you stand up and you lead, the more natural it becomes.

Last year during school, this kid in my honors history class stole test answers and everyone knew. They were all getting the answers from him. I didn't want to see them. And they made me a copy and put my name on the top of it. And I was like, I don't want them. So I ripped them up, and I didn't look at them.

Well, I got a C on the final – the lowest grade in the class. But I really studied hard. It was so frustrating that everyone cheated and got As and Bs. My teacher was like, "I'm so proud, your class did the best; you must have studied so hard." And so I went up to her and told her that one of her students stole the test answers.

I felt so bad. I know it was the right thing to do, but I still felt horrible. I messed it up for everyone – they all got Ds, so my grade was the highest. I felt bad, but I know I was being a leader by doing it. Now teachers thank me, and I look back on it and feel proud for being honest and strong.

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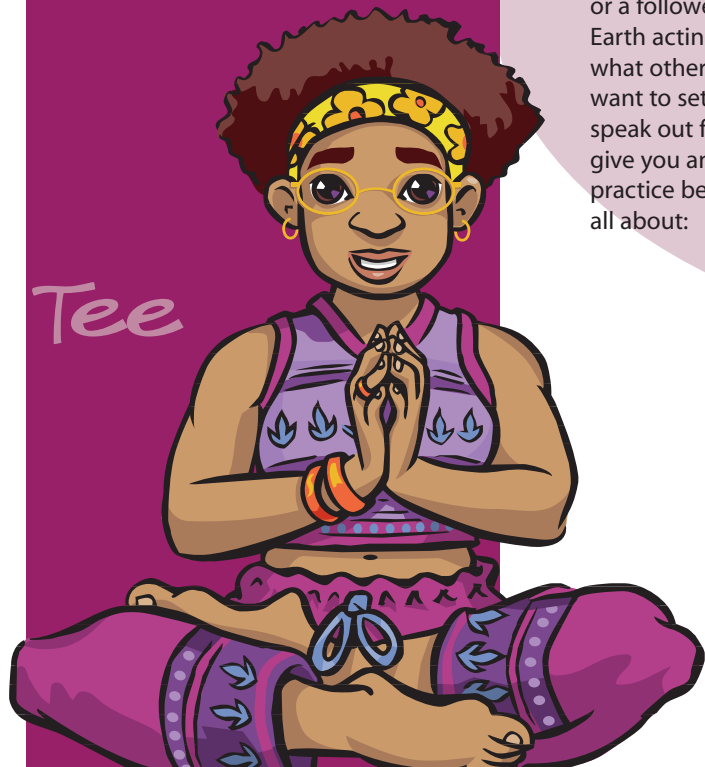
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Life is an amazing game. The whistle has blown, and for the first time in your life only YOU have the power to decide what kind of player you want to be. One big decision you will make every day is whether you want to be a leader or a follower. Do you want to walk this Earth acting like everyone else, doing what others say and do? Or do you want to set the trends, be an individual, speak out for yourself? Sports teams give you an awesome opportunity to practice being a leader. Here's what it's all about:

Billie Jean King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Oprah Winfrey, Nelson Mandela – these are just a few awesome leaders. You may not know who some of them are, but you must know a good leader at your school, in your community or on your sports team? When you're learning to be a supastar leader, it's a good idea to hang around someone who has already mastered it. Watch how they do things, how they treat people – sponge off of them.

Life is an amazing game - YOU have the power to decide what kind of player you want to be.

Tee



Good leaders are:

- ✧ Honest and fair
- ✧ Great listeners
- ✧ Confident – they believe in themselves
- ✧ Independent – brave enough to be different
- ✧ Quick to show they care
- ✧ Respectful of differences
- ✧ Open to saying they made a mistake
- ✧ Energetic and positive
- ✧ Patient

Good leaders aren't:

- ✧ Bossy or mean
- ✧ Selfish
- ✧ Snobby or judgmental
- ✧ Quick to blame others
- ✧ Lazy
- ✧ Rumor spreaders or liars



Resources

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