

Friendship is the Key

No matter the situation, friends will pull through for you. William Denbrough, Mike Hanlon, Eddie Kaspbrak, Richie Tozier, Ben Hanscom, Beverly Marsh, and Stan Uris are wonderful examples of this. Though separated by the unpreventable force of life, a once forgotten tragedy brought them back together in the city of Derry, Maine. An ancient evil that goes by the name of Pennywise the Dancing Clown, also known as *It*, reappeared. With friends, one could achieve anything.

Friends will always have your back. “Swear to me. Swear to me that if *It* isn't dead, you'll all come back.” William Denbrough said this to his 6 friends, determined to get rid of Pennywise the Dancing Clown should he return to Derry, Maine. All of his friends promised. Ava, one of my closest and youngest friends, helped me when everything was going downhill. My emotions were all over the place. My grandfather upset me because he accused me of using manipulation to get his money when it was only him not listening to me. Ava, automatically sensing my distress, walked over to me and kissed my cheek and made me feel better. I, no matter how temporary, forgot about my issues with my grandfather and concentrated on my adorable and irresistible friend. Her excitement inserted into me and my anger melted away.

“A friend is someone who can see the truth and pain in you even when you are fooling everyone else.” Patricia Blum was the only one who noticed her husband's, Stan Uris, unusual behavior when no one else did. Amber, a friend of mine since Thomas Eaton Middle School,

noticed that something was wrong with me, even though I assured my small group of friends that everything was alright. Amber pursued my questionable behavior, wanting to know why I wasn't talking like I usually was. An answer was finally pulled out of me, no matter how hard I tried to resist.

“He's not my boyfriend, but I do love his smile, his laugh, his texts, and just being with him. I guess I'm not in love with him, I'm in love with *us*.” I have a friend that goes by the name of Lorenzo Tinsley and we are seen together all of the time, smiling and talking. We are so close that people think we are dating, no matter our insistence that we're not. We just love interacting with each other.

“If you're alone, I'll be your shadow. If you want to cry, I'll be your shoulder. If you want a hug, I'll be your pillow. If you need to be happy, I'll be your smile. But anytime you need a friend, I'll just be me.” Most of The Losers' Club, which consisted of William Denbrough, Richie Tozier, Eddie Kaspbrak, Stan Uris, Patricia Blum, and Ben Hanscom showed this when they came together again when *It* popped up again. Victoria, also known as Tori, comes to me when anything is wrong. For example, a friend of ours kicked us out of her room because Tori accidentally knocked something off of her bed and it broke. I insisted that I would pay for it after she venomously hurled insults our way, which made Tori cry. I gave our friend, who was being unreasonable at the time, the \$50.00 dollars to replace the broken object and left with Tori. I comforted my upset friend until I assured her that everything was going to be okay. A smile appeared on her face after that. With Tori's spirits lifted, we spent the rest of the day together.

“When you truly care about someone, their mistakes never change your feelings because it's the mind that gets angry but the heart still cares.” You see, I have this really bad habit of

holding my anger in, which isn't healthy. My anger builds up until somebody makes the control of my emotions snap like a rubber-band stretched too tight. When it snaps, I tend not to remember all of the things I've done in my angry tirade. My sister, Marisa, and her brother, Janari, were in my room with me lying on the carpet while they stood in front of me. Out of nowhere, they start kicking me out of boredom. I know that some people have patience, but I am not one of them. I started screaming at them so loud that they froze in fear. They came to their senses after looking into my murderous eyes. Marisa and Janari tripped over themselves on their way out of the house. After I cooled down for an hour, all was forgiven. My heart forgave them as soon as it happened but I prefer to listen to my brain.

“Friends give us the courage to lift the blinds on our hearts and to open up and show what we generally keep hidden from the rest of the world.” Each member of The Losers' Club was a loner before they met each other. Ben was teased endlessly, people gave William Denbrough the nickname of “Stuttering Bill”, Beverly prefers to hang out with the guys, Eddie has an overprotective mother, Mike is black, which wasn't a good thing back then, and Stan is Jewish, which makes him a target of bullying for his unusual religion. They all were left out because they had some problems concerning their personal life. They shouldn't have excluded by their peers. I, like The Losers' Club, was a loner until I met my first friend, Deshawn. Deshawn helped me open up enough that I trusted him with my feelings. I don't know where I would be today without Deshawn, my first best friend.

“Friendship isn't about whom you have known the longest. It's about who came and never left your side.” William Denbrough, Ben Hanscom, Mike Hanlon, Eddie Kaspbrak, Richie Tozier, and Beverly Marsh never left a member of The Losers' Club behind, even though it was

clear that *It*, the killer clown, was probably going to murder them like William Denbrough's little brother, George. Dezmund, a friend of mine since Thomas Eaton Middle School, has been there for me through thick and thin. When we first came to Bethel High School in 2012, he was the first friend I found and together we made a pact with our mutual friends from Eaton. He has the biggest heart throughout our group and wouldn't let ignorant and rude people mess with us.

Dezmund never me alone, just like Amber, when I needed a friend the most.

“Anyone can make you smile or cry but it takes someone special to make you smile when you already have tears in your eyes.” It takes a true friend to bring a smile on your face when you are really upset about something. Aila, another friend of mine since Thomas Eaton Middle School, made me laugh even though I thought that I wouldn't be happy for a long time. It was an upsetting time for me because Rere, my favorite grandma, moved away to Indianapolis, Indiana to live with her sister for a while. This was devastating for me, as she was one of the most important people in my life; I cried for weeks. One day Aila happened to catch me in an emotional moment and he cracked jokes until a miniscule smile bloomed on my tear stained face. We both aren't a touchy-feely type of person so we changed the subject since we were both uncomfortable. Aila agreed to never tell our mutual friends that he saw me cry, which was an uncommon occurrence for me. I don't know how he did it, even to this day. He just smiles and makes a zipping motion across his lips every time I ask.

“The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him.” Friendship is a necessity to life. People without friends develop close to no social skills, which is needed to get a job. Friends help you when you

are feeling down and they will always will be there for you no matter what. William Denbrough, Ben Hanscom, Richie Tozier, Stan Uris, Beverly Marsh, Mike Hanlon, and Eddie Kaspbrak show this beautifully in *It*, a book written by Stephen King. They come together to defeat the cannibalistic Pennywise the Dancing Clown. The remaining group of friends at the end of the book would be dead if they broke their promise to William Denbrough and Pennywise would still be killing people in the city of Derry, Maine. True friendship is a rarity, so cherish it and keep it safe if you have it.

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