

## Character Traits in "Scout's Honor"

The story "Scout's Honor" by Avi is about three friends who go camping in order to advance to the next level of Boy Scouts. Each of the boys demonstrates particular character traits that help the story unfold. One character, Max, shows that he is convincing throughout the story.

Max is first introduced to the reader when the author writes, "Max was on the pudgy side, but he could talk his way out of a locked room" (p55). This means he was able to persuade people to see things his way. One example of Max being convincing happens when he gets stuck on the train without the other two friends. When the narrator and Horse finally catch up to Max at the next station, he looks like he has been crying. However, he makes the excuse that, "there was this water dripping from the tunnel roof. But, you said don't move, right? Well, I was just being obedient" (p57). Even though the reader can tell Max really was crying, he is able to convince his friends otherwise. Max proves this ability again when he becomes suspicious that the George Washington Bridge, which the boys have to cross, does not continue all the way to New Jersey. Although this seems unlikely, Max supports his idea by saying, "No, seriously. . .they could have taken the Jersey side away, you know, for repairs" (p59). Once again, Max shows that he is able to think quickly and persuade others to believe him. Finally, Max shows that he can be persuasive when talking about his official Scout compass. Even though the George Washington Bridge goes from east to west, Max insists that the boys are travelling north because that is what his compass says. He tells his friends, ". . .guaranteed, we are going north" (p59). Clearly, Max is a very convincing person.

In many situations, Max showed his ability to be convincing in the story "Scout's Honor." He was able to persuade his friends to believe him by using his quick thinking skills. It is clear that Max's most prominent character trait is being convincing.





