## **99 WRITING**

## Friends Should Be Forever

by Sharon, 826CHI

**TYPE** NARRATIVE Friends are accepting. Friends are forever. Friends are a gift. Friends are a blessing. Friends are family. Friends are enjoyable. Friends are everyday. And friends are one of a kind. However, friends are not always friends. When you reach the point in life where you discover who your real friends are, you feel more complete as a person.

Do you sometimes prefer being popular over being happy? Or do you sometimes prefer followers over support? There was a point in my life where I valued popularity and numbers over real happiness and support. But then one day my mind clicked and I decided that a small group of real friends would overpower a group of many popular and fake friends any day.

I stuck with a group of friends for many years, hoping that one day I'd fit in, or that one day they would notice that I was there. After all of these years, I found out that it was impossible because I didn't fit in with their ways, I didn't fit in with how they acted, and most importantly, they didn't make me confident as a person, and they didn't make me happy even once. There was another group of friends out there where I knew I would fit in perfectly just by being myself.

It is never too late to change the way your mind thinks. Being with friends makes you smile, they lift you up higher each day. They fill your life with beauty and joy. You fight the dark battles together, and you enjoy one another's company. When I look back today, I can tell the difference between the big group of friends I wanted to be with versus the small group of friends I came to after years of trying to fit in with people who just weren't the kind of people I wanted to be around. That group of perfectly imperfect friends who make you happy will make your world a better place no matter how bad things get.