



OPERATION: LOYAL COMPANION

WHAT'S A LOYAL COMPANION?

Behind every hero is a loyal companion. Where would Harry Potter be without Hedwig? Can you imagine The Chronicles of Narnia without Aslan? Hiccup wouldn't have gone nearly so far without Toothless, and Alice's adventures may have never begun without the White Rabbit. The same is true for the heroes—called “Triumphants”—in the Kingdom of Wanderly. In fact, every Triumphant in Wanderly receives a lifetime assignment for their very own finned, furry, hairy, scaled or feathered Loyal Companion. As you can imagine, this is a pretty huge deal. Plus, the assigned Loyal Companions are as different as each Triumphant! Don't believe me? In The Triumphant Tale of Pippa North just a few of the named Loyal Companions include: a tortoise, a beaver, a goldfish, a macaw, a goat, and ... a fire horse.



ARTIST: MELISSA MANWILL

FIRE HORSE, YOU SAY?

Meet Ferdinand! Loyal Companion to Triumphant Pippa North and one of Wanderly's most beloved magical creatures.

YOUR MISSION

Answer the questions on the following page to receive YOUR Loyal Companion Assignment!

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LOYAL COMPANION ASSIGNMENT QUIZ

A Week in Wanderly

1. You wake up for school on a **MONDAY** morning. You get dressed, eat breakfast, grab your school books and realize . . . you are NOT in your normal house. You run to the window and everything outside looks different. What do you do?
 - a. Climb upstairs and get back in bed because you must be dreaming.
 - b. Shout a warning at the top of your lungs because everyone else needs to know about this right NOW.
 - c. Burst out laughing because somehow your family pulled off the best April Fool's Day joke (and it's not even April Fool's Day)!
 - d. Sneak stealthily around the house looking for clues.
 - e. Start gathering supplies for an emergency pack (food, water, books . . . all the essentials) because whatever is going on, at least you'll be prepared.

2. Phew, you've made it to **TUESDAY**. Determined to comfort yourself with a good book, you curl up in a cozy chair. But there's a knock on the door. Hopeful that help has arrived, you open it up to discover . . . a witch! What do you do?
 - a. Take a deep (somewhat shaky) breath and give the witch a chance. Maybe she's not looking to cast a curse, but just ran out of milk?
 - b. Stop and think. You've read a TON of fairytale stories and surely you've learned something that will prove perfectly useful.
 - c. Grab the witch by the elbow and start doing your best square dance routine. Even witches like to have fun, right?
 - d. Look the witch straight in the eye and make your scariest face, hoping it will catch her completely off guard.
 - e. Immediately drop down to the ground, somersault between the witch's legs, and make a run for it.

3. It's **WEDNESDAY**, and after narrowly escaping the witch, you take a terribly wrong turn into a dark and spooky forest. You're going to need to find a place to rest and quick. Where do you choose?
 - a. You climb the nearest tree where you'll be high from danger with plenty of soft leaves to rest your head.
 - b. You stay right where you are, certain that the farther you wander off, the harder it will be for someone to rescue you.
 - c. You make your way back to a barn that you spotted earlier. It has plenty of shelter and bonus points if you meet some new friends!
 - d. You head directly for a cozy cave where you can be sure you see anyone else before they see you.
 - e. You slide right into a roomy, hollowed out log—a simple and easy hiding place with lots of storage space!

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4. After a good night's sleep, you wake up on **THURSDAY** morning to the sound of crying. You peek out of your resting place and see a fairy godmother sitting on a tree stump. What do you do?

- a. You quickly run to her side. You're not sure how you can help, but at least she'll have a shoulder to cry on.
- b. You ask her as many thoughtful questions as you can because sometimes the best way to solve a problem is to talk it through.
- c. You dash to her side, determined to take her mind off of her troubles with your very best joke (or two or three).
- d. You scan your surroundings for potential danger, ready to protect the fairy godmother from whatever—or *whomever*—has upset her.
- e. You reach into your pocket and pull out a penny, a rubber band, and a stick of gum. Somehow you know you'll have just what she needs (or be able to make it!).

5. It's **FRIDAY** morning. Although the fairy godmother helped you find your way out of the forest, only a wizard can make the potion you need to get home. How do you plan to find the wizard?

- a. You make your way to the nearest village, certain that someone will help you if you ask politely.
- b. You head straight to the kingdom's library—in your experience, books always have the answers.
- c. You dress up as a wizard. You love wearing costumes and acting like a wizard seems like the fastest way to find one.
- d. You immediately set off on your own. You're fast and smart, and you don't want to waste any more time (or run into any possible enemies!).
- e. You wait by the side of the road and hop on the next carriage that passes by. You blend in easily, might overhear some useful information, plus you'll see more of the kingdom.

6. **SATURDAY** evening finds you on the front porch of a wizard's doorstep! But when the wizard answers the door, he says that one of the required potion ingredients is to reveal your dream vacation. What do you whisper in his ear?

- a. Your favorite vacations are stay-cations, especially if it involves building a treehouse.
- b. You're happy anywhere as long as the people you love are by your side.
- c. You would love someplace busy and bustling with lots of entertainment—like New York City!
- d. A lush, jungle safari would hold the adventure you're looking for.
- e. You would love to visit a National Park like the Grand Canyon or Yosemite.

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7. It's finally **SUNDAY** and . . . you did it, you made it back home! When you think back on your adventures in Wanderly, how do you feel?

- a. You would love to go back . . . from the safety of the pages in a book.
- b. You are already busy making a scrapbook of everything you experienced so that you don't forget a single detail.
- c. You miss some of the new friends you made—in fact, you've already sent a few of them letters via the Winds of Wanderly!
- d. You can't stop thinking about that witch and whether you should warn someone about what she was *really* up to.
- e. You'd be happy to make a return visit, especially now that you know exactly what to bring.

If you answered . . .

Mostly A's: Your Loyal Companion match is a **KOALA**! Koalas are peaceful and gentle. They are easy going, love the comforts of home, and have a comforting influence on others. They are always ready to brighten your day with a snuggle.

Mostly B's: Your Loyal Companion match is an **ELEPHANT**! Elephants are loyal and steadfast. Nothing is more important to them than their herd, and they will gladly follow them anywhere. Elephants are thoughtful, have a keen sense of memory, and delight others with their sharp intellect.

Mostly C's: Your Loyal Companion match is a **LLAMA**! Llamas are warm and witty. Their silly antics spread joy, and they always see the silver lining. They are natural performers and others are drawn to them.

Mostly D's: Your Loyal Companion match is a **TIGER**! Tigers are brave and independent. They are observant, fiercely protective of those they love, and always ready for a challenge. Their natural leadership and courage inspires others to action.

Mostly E's: Your Loyal Companion match is a **CHIPMUNK**! Chipmunks are reliable and resourceful. They are excellent planners, nimble and quick, and creative problem solvers. They adapt easily to situations and can always be counted on.

Not sure this quiz was entirely right? Never fear! Loyal Companion matching is a tricky process.
Turn the page to create a Loyal Companion profile for your perfect match.

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LOYAL COMPANION FILES

NAME: _____

SPECIES: _____

PHYSICAL STRENGTHS: _____

CHARACTER STRENGTHS: _____

FAVORITE ACTIVITY: _____

FAVORITE TYPE OF QUEST: _____

WHY THIS IS YOUR PERFECT MATCH: _____

SECRET SUPER POWER: _____

*LOOKING FOR LOYAL COMPANION IDEAS? ASK A GROWN-UP TO VISIT A WEBSITE LIKE [HTTPS://KIDS.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM/ANIMALS/](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/). HAVE FUN EXPLORING, AND REMEMBER THAT EVEN THE MOST “ORDINARY” ANIMALS HAVE THEIR VERY OWN MAGIC!

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CREATE-YOUR-OWN-COMPANION

SOMETIMES FINDING THE PERFECT LOYAL COMPANION REQUIRES STRETCHING YOUR IMAGINATION. TRY THIS FUN ACTIVITY TO CREATE YOUR VERY OWN ONE-OF-A-KIND LOYAL COMPANION. CUT OUT AND RANDOMLY SELECT ONE OPTION FROM EACH OF THE THREE CATEGORIES: HEAD, BODY & TAIL. FOR A FUN TWIST, ADD IN THE BONUS MAGIC CATEGORY. WHEN YOU'VE FOUND JUST THE RIGHT MATCH, BRING YOUR LOYAL COMPANION TO LIFE WITH THE LOYAL COMPANION FILE.

HEAD

| | | |
|--------|---------|------------|
| EAGLE | HORSE | PANDA BEAR |
| LION | MOOSE | SEA OTTER |
| TURTLE | RACCOON | WOLF |

BODY

| | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|
| ALLIGATOR | FROG | PORCUPINE |
| BUFFALO | GORILLA | CAMEL |
| DONKEY | CHEETAH | KANGAROO |

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TAIL

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| BEAVER | MONKEY | LIZARD |
| LION | RABBIT | SKUNK |
| HORSE | PIG | MOUSE |

BONUS MAGIC

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| UNICORN HORN | WINGS | FIRE POWER |
| ICE POWER | INVISIBILITY | (CUSTOM OPTION) _____ |

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LOYAL COMPANION STORY-STARTERS

NOW THAT YOU'RE MATCHED WITH YOUR LOYAL COMPANION, THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO IS GO ON SOME ADVENTURES TOGETHER! HAVE FUN EXPLORING FIVE STORY STARTERS BELOW

1. On the day of my Loyal Companion assignment, my heart was pounding. I had dreamed of this day for years! When the curtain finally fell, revealing my Loyal Companion, I gasped and everyone else did too. The first thing I heard was ...

2. One day, while visiting the Official Library in Wanderly Square, I was curious to research my Loyal Companion's history. I was astonished to discover ...

3. Just last night the Chancellor of Wanderly announced that he will be accepting applications for a very exciting (and very top secret) quest! I know my Loyal Companion and I are the perfect choice because ...

4. I skipped by the news cart and froze in my tracks. My Loyal Companion and I were featured on the front page of the Wanderly Whistle! But it wasn't exactly for the reason I would have expected ...

5. My Loyal Companion has always been there for me. Now it's my turn to celebrate my Loyal Companion by throwing the best birthday bash ever! The day began perfectly—the sun was shining, the Winds of Wanderly were swirling, but then ...

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