BLUEY EPISODE GUIDE

# Promises

Grade 4 · Age 9

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| **Episode Name** | Promises |
| **Season & Episode** | Season 3, Episode 4 |
| **Age Group** | Grade 4 (Age 9) |
| **Key Concept** | Integrity isn't just about keeping your word — it's about doing the right thing, even when those two things conflict |

## ABOUT THIS EPISODE

Bluey makes Bandit promise not to put her to bed early. He agrees. But as the night wears on, she becomes overtired and miserable — fractious, tearful, unable to enjoy the very evening she stayed up for. Bandit faces a genuine dilemma: keep the promise and watch her suffer, or break it because he can see what she can't.

He breaks it. She's furious. The episode sits honestly with both sides of that: her sense of betrayal is real, and so is his love. There's no clean resolution that makes everyone happy. There's just the messier truth that sometimes doing the right thing and keeping your word don't point in the same direction.

## WHY IT MATTERS (FOR PARENTS)

Nine-year-olds take promises seriously. A broken promise feels like a betrayal — full stop. This episode gently challenges that black-and-white thinking by showing that sometimes the most loving thing a person can do is break a promise. Not out of laziness or dishonesty, but because circumstances changed and keeping the promise would cause more harm than breaking it.

This is a sophisticated moral concept and the episode handles it with real emotional honesty. Your child will face situations where these two things conflict — where keeping their word and doing the right thing aren't the same. Understanding that integrity isn't just about keeping your word, but about doing the right thing even when those two things diverge, is one of the most nuanced moral lessons a nine-year-old can begin to sit with.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (FOR YOUR CHILD)

1. *Was Bandit wrong to break his promise? Or was he actually being a good dad by breaking it?*
2. *Can you think of a situation where keeping a promise could actually hurt someone?*
3. *What's the difference between someone who breaks promises because they don't care, and someone who breaks a promise because something important changed?*
4. *If your best friend made you promise something, but then you realised keeping that promise might get them in trouble, what would you do?*

## AFTER THE EPISODE — ACTIVITIES & EXTENSIONS

**Try one of these to keep the learning going:**

- Ask question one and really argue it out. Take a position and defend it, then swap and defend the opposite. This is one of those questions that doesn't have a single correct answer — and practising holding two legitimate positions at once is exactly the kind of moral thinking nine-year-olds are ready for.
- Ask question two and generate as many examples as you can together. When does keeping a promise become the wrong thing? What would have to change for a broken promise to be the right call? Help your child build a mental framework, not just a feeling.
- Talk about question three at length. The distinguishing factor is intent and honesty — and whether the person who broke the promise owns it or hides from it. Ask: how would you know which one Bandit was doing? What did he say or do that showed his reasons?
- Ask question four and let it be uncomfortable. There's no clean answer. Help your child notice what they value more in that scenario — loyalty to the friend or protecting them from harm — and why. This is the kind of ethical reasoning that will matter a great deal as they get older.

*Tip for parents: The most important thing this episode models isn't the decision — it's what Bandit does after. He doesn't sneak around the promise or pretend he didn't make it. He breaks it openly, explains why, and accepts Bluey's anger. That's the model worth pointing to: when you have to break a promise for a good reason, you owe the other person honesty about what you did and why. Hiding it turns a hard choice into a betrayal.*