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### Teenage Relationships

High school relationships are drama-filled, messy, and can be challenging for any couple. Marc and Carly... In discussing teenage relationships and whether Carly should break up with Marc, the communication, the level of trust, and the quality of the romance are important factors because they are the foundation of a steady relationship.

Communication is a crucial factor for Carly to consider when deciding to stay with Marc because it will help them resolve their conflicts and provide stability in their relationship. Currently, Marc and Carly seem to be having significant communication problems, especially about if one of them is cheating on the other. For instance, Danielle states, "I was told by Lindsey that Carly was cheating on you with John. But you know how Lindsey can be..."<sup>1</sup> This statement indicates that Marc is relying on hearsay from a potentially unreliable source, suggesting a breakdown in communication between him and Carly. Additionally, Anna, who is a jealous friend of Marc and Carly, states that "Marc is convinced that Carly is cheating on him because Carly has been with John for

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<sup>1</sup> Source B

the last two nights.”<sup>2</sup> Rather than communicating with Marc, Carly is letting herself be swayed by conflicting accounts of Marc’s faithfulness. This evidence suggests that Carly is making assumptions without seeking clarification from Marc, leading to misunderstanding and conflict in their relationship. Consequently if, Carly and Marc do not improve their level of communication, discussing the rumors that are being passed around about their relationship, then they will continue to drift apart. Therefore, due to the fact that open communication is the only way to address the rumors, Carly must decide if she is willing to talk to Marc and clear up the misunderstandings.

Another factor Carly should consider is Marc’s loyalty to her **because** if a guy is not loyal in a relationship then it could be a sign that he does not take the relationship seriously. Marc’s actions on Friday night should make Carly question his loyalty and make her reevaluate his commitment to her. For example, Marc writes in his schedule that he is going with Anna to a bonfire at Matt’s that will last until 1 A.M. while Carly is away at a basketball game. Both the fact that he is staying out late and going with Anna suggests that something more may be going on between him and Anna. While at the bonfire Marc takes a picture with Anna on his back, which she posts to Instagram with the tag “#lovehim” and the comment “he’s always got my back.” Marc’s willingness to take this picture with Anna, knowing that he is in a relationship with Carly and that Anna likes him, shows he is not as loyal to Carly as she thought. This evidence demonstrates that Marc is not being honest about the kind of relationship he has with Anna and that he is willing to flirt with other girls while Carly is busy with her sport. Consequently if

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<sup>2</sup> Source B

Marc is willing to be flirtatious while Anna is away, Carly should ask herself how committed he is to their relationship, especially because Carly does not flirt with other guys when Marc is not around. Therefore, due to fact that Marc is not as serious about the relationship, she should question if she can continue in a relationship that lacks the solid foundation of loyalty to the other person.