

Friendship Levels

NOT ALL FRIENDSHIPS are what you might call, "deep." In fact, some are even more "surface" than lip-gloss. Think of it like this:

■ *Some friendships share only Silly Little Facts.* "How was the weather?" "Fine, thanks. How was the concert?" "Fine, thanks. Get over your cold?" "Cold? You must be thinking of Julie." SLF Friendships are OK. It beats people wishing you a rotten day. But we all need interaction that dips deeper.

■ *Some friendships share Profound Ideas.* It's great to stay up late and solve the problems of the world with a wise friend or two. And sometimes your own Junior Varsity problem-solving sessions can be as productive as the Big League summit meetings. Spice up your life with your own SALT Talks. There's a place for PI Friendships. We ought to go beyond Silly Little Facts. But we need also a few friends with whom we can go beyond the swapping of Profound Ideas.

■ *Some friendships share Secret Feelings.* OK, maybe it sounds corny. But when you are uptight, you need someone who understands. Someone who can help you unravel your twisted feelings. Someone who listens. And cares. When your emotions are so volatile you're sure you cannot hold together, you need someone who will not blush if you unexpectedly find yourself in tears. You don't need many SF Friendships, but life is smoother with at least one.

—JL