

The Forest of Kind Connections

Learning objective: To understand the qualities of a healthy friendship and how to resolve minor conflicts through empathy.

Read the passage carefully. Think about how the characters feel and why they act the way they do. Answer the questions in full sentences, using evidence from the text to support your ideas.

In the heart of the Whispering Woods, Nova the owl and Max the monkey often spent their afternoons together. Friendship, they discovered, was like tending to a garden; it required patience, care, and a little bit of sunshine. One Tuesday, a disagreement arose over a game of stone-stacking. Max wanted to build the highest tower, while Nova insisted on creating a symmetrical pattern. The forest grew quiet as frustration simmered. Max felt his ideas were being dismissed, and Nova felt her artistic vision was ignored. Instead of turning away, they paused. Nova asked, 'Why is the height important to you?' Max explained he wanted to reach the low-hanging branches. Max then asked, 'Why does the pattern matter?' Nova described the beauty of balance. By listening to each other's perspectives, they realised they could build a wide, sturdy base for stability and a tall, patterned top for beauty. They learned that friendship isn't about being the same; it is about valuing differences and finding a way to grow together, ensuring both friends feel heard and respected.

Word bank: empathy · cooperation · perspective · resolution · mutual · integrity

1. What two specific activities were Nova and Max trying to do during their game of stone-stacking? (2 marks)

2. According to the passage, why did the forest grow quiet between the two friends? (2 marks)

3. Explain why Nova and Max decided to ask each other questions instead of simply walking away. (3 marks)

4. How does the author use the metaphor of a garden to describe friendship? Provide evidence from the text. (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that a friendship is stronger when two people have different ideas? Justify your answer using your own experiences or ideas from the text. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova and Max working together on their stone tower, showing the pattern Nova wanted and the height Max wanted.



Extension challenge: Write a short dialogue between two characters who have a different opinion on how to solve a problem. How would they use the 'listening technique' Nova and Max used to find a compromise?