

The Pillars of Friendship

Learning objective: To understand the qualities that build and sustain healthy, positive friendships.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below to show your understanding of what makes a good friend.

Max the monkey and Leo the lion were an unlikely pair, but they were the best of friends. One sunny afternoon, they sat by the river, discussing what made their friendship so strong. Max explained that for him, friendship was like a complex maths equation: it required balance. He felt that honesty and listening were the essential variables. Leo nodded, his golden mane catching the light. He believed that loyalty was the foundation of their bond. He remembered when he had felt nervous about performing his poetry in front of the forest animals; Max had sat in the front row, cheering the loudest. That simple act of kindness had built a deep sense of trust between them. They agreed that a true friend does not just celebrate your successes, but stands by you during challenges too. Whether they were solving puzzles or composing verses, they always treated each other with respect. By being kind, reliable, and patient, they ensured their friendship remained a source of joy. They knew that friendships, much like any precious thing, needed care and attention to grow and flourish.

Word bank: empathy · trustworthiness · loyalty · integrity · mutual · supportive

1. According to the passage, what two specific qualities does Max believe are essential for a good friendship? (2 marks)

2. What action did Max take that helped Leo feel more confident about his poetry? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe Max and Leo as an 'unlikely pair'? (2 marks)

4. How does the friendship between Max and Leo demonstrate the idea of 'mutual support'? (2 marks)

5. The text says friendship is like a 'precious thing' that needs care. Do you agree with this comparison? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Max and Leo working together on a project. Include one detail that shows how they are being kind or supportive to one another.



Extension challenge: Write a short 'Friendship Recipe' card. List three ingredients (qualities) you think are most important for a healthy friendship and explain why each one is necessary.