# Rising to the Challenge with Leo the Lion

*Learning objective: To understand the meaning of resilience and how to apply a positive mindset to overcome personal challenges.*

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences. Think about how the characters feel and why they choose to keep going.

Leo the Lion was preparing for the Great Jungle Hike, a steep climb to the highest peak in the valley. He had spent weeks training, but during the climb, his heavy map blew away in a sudden gust of wind. Leo felt his heart sink; he had relied on that map to navigate the tricky paths. He sat on a mossy rock, feeling frustrated and tempted to turn back. Just then, he remembered a poem he had written about the sun rising after the darkest night. He realised that the hike wasn't just about the map, but about his own strength. Leo took a deep breath, composed himself, and decided to use the landmarks he could see instead. It took longer than planned, and his legs ached, but by focusing on one step at a time, he eventually reached the summit. When he arrived, he felt a sense of pride that was far greater than if the climb had been easy. Leo learnt that resilience is not about avoiding problems, but about finding a way to move forward when things do not go to plan.

*Word bank: Resilience · Perseverance · Mindset · Obstacle · Determination · Strategy*

**1. What specific item did Leo lose during his hike, and how did he feel when it happened? (2 marks)**

**2. How did Leo change his strategy after he lost his map? (2 marks)**

**3. Why does the author describe Leo's pride as being 'far greater' because the climb was difficult? (2 marks)**

**4. What does the phrase 'the sun rising after the darkest night' suggest about how Leo views challenges? (2 marks)**

**5. Do you think it is more important to be talented or to be resilient? Give a reason for your choice. (2 marks)**

**Draw: Draw a picture of Leo the Lion reaching the top of the mountain. Show his facial expression to reflect how he feels after overcoming his challenge.**

*Extension challenge: Think of a time you found a school task difficult. Write a short paragraph explaining what strategy you used to stay resilient and keep going, just like Leo.*