

The Seasons of Growth

Learning objective: To understand the physical and emotional changes that occur during the process of growing up.

Read the passage below carefully. Think about how Leo the Lion's perspective on change reflects the journey of growing from a child into a young person. Answer the questions in full sentences.

Leo the Lion sat upon a sun-warmed rock, watching the savannah change with the passing seasons. As a young lion, Leo remembered when his mane was thin and his roar was merely a squeak. Now, his mane was thick and golden, and his voice carried across the plains. Growing up was not just about getting taller or stronger; it was a complex transition. Leo realised that with his new size came new responsibilities, such as leading the pride and helping the younger cubs learn to navigate the tall grass. Sometimes, the changes felt overwhelming, and he missed the simplicity of being a small cub. However, he soon discovered that maturity brought a unique sense of pride. He could now solve problems that once baffled him and offer guidance to others. Leo understood that growing up is like the seasons; each stage brings different challenges and rewards. By embracing his own development, Leo felt ready to face the future with confidence, knowing that change is a natural part of his life's journey.

Word bank: maturity · responsibility · perspective · milestone · resilience · transition

1. Identify two physical changes that Leo has experienced as he has grown from a cub into a lion. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. According to the passage, what specific responsibility does Leo take on as he matures? (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. Why might Leo feel a sense of sadness or 'miss the simplicity' of being a small cub? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. In what way does the author use the metaphor of 'seasons' to describe growing up? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think growing up is more about physical changes or changes in our responsibilities? Justify your answer. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture showing Leo the Lion helping a younger cub learn something new, demonstrating the responsibilities that come with growing up.



Extension challenge: Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a 10-year-old human. Describe one thing you are looking forward to about being older, and one thing you might find challenging about the responsibilities of being a teenager. Explain why you feel this way.