

Building Strong Connections

Learning objective: To understand the qualities of healthy relationships and the importance of empathy and active listening.

Read the passage below carefully. Think about how the characters interact and how their actions affect their friendship. Answer the questions in full sentences.

In the heart of the Whispering Woods, Nova the owl and Max the monkey spent their afternoon planning a community garden. They had different ideas: Max wanted to organise the vegetable rows into complex geometric patterns, while Nova wanted to ensure the nectar-rich flowers were placed specifically to support the local bee population. Initially, they both felt frustrated. Max argued his grid would be more efficient, but Nova explained how the positioning of the flowers was crucial for the ecosystem. Rather than arguing, they decided to listen. Max used his maths skills to calculate a layout that incorporated both the geometric rows and the essential flower beds. By valuing each other's expertise and remaining patient, they created a garden that was both organised and beneficial for the forest. Their ability to compromise turned a potential disagreement into a successful project. They learned that a healthy relationship relies on honesty, active listening, and the willingness to see the world from another person's perspective. When both parties feel heard, they can achieve much more than they could alone.

Word bank: empathy · perspective · cooperation · constructive · reliability · trust

1. Why did Max and Nova initially feel frustrated with each other? (2 marks)

2. What specific skills did Max use to help solve their problem? (2 marks)

3. How does the passage demonstrate that Nova respects Max's ideas? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'see the world from another person's perspective' mean in the context of their friendship? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree that compromise is the most important part of a friendship? Justify your answer using examples from the text or your own experience. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Nova the owl and Max the monkey working together in their garden. Include details that show both Max's love for patterns and Nova's love for nature.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the qualities of a healthy friendship with a relationship that might be considered unkind. Explain why empathy acts as a 'bridge' between two people who have different opinions.