

Leo's Lesson in Perseverance

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

Read the passage below carefully. Think about how Leo feels at the beginning and the end of his task. Write your answers in full sentences.

Leo the lion had always been known for his bravery, but today he faced a challenge that made his paws tremble. He was attempting to build a complex wooden model of a bridge for the forest exhibition. Following the intricate instructions, Leo carefully balanced the struts, but just as he reached the final piece, the entire structure collapsed into a heap of timber. Frustration bubbled up inside him; he felt like giving up and walking away. However, he remembered what his friends often told him: mistakes are simply stepping stones to success. Taking a deep breath, Leo stepped back to gain a new perspective. He noticed that the base had been slightly wobbly. With renewed focus, he began again, moving slowly and deliberately. This time, he didn't rush the process. When the final piece was placed, the bridge stood tall and sturdy. Leo realised that resilience wasn't about never failing; it was about having the courage to try again when things didn't go to plan. He felt a surge of pride, knowing his persistence had turned a tumble into a triumph.

Word bank: resilience · perseverance · determined · frustration · objective · perspective

1. What happened to Leo's first attempt at building the bridge? (Literal) (2 marks)

2. Identify two things Leo did differently when he started building the bridge for the second time. (Literal) (2 marks)

3. Why might Leo have felt like giving up before he decided to try again? (Inferential) (3 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'mistakes are simply stepping stones to success' suggest about how we should view failure? (Inferential) (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that resilience is more important than natural talent? Justify your answer using examples from the text. (Evaluative) (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Leo the lion looking at his finished bridge with a proud expression. Include one detail in the background that shows the forest setting.



Extension challenge: Explain why resilience is a vital skill for someone learning a new subject, such as maths or a foreign language. Compare and contrast a time you felt like Leo with a time you succeeded on your first attempt. What might happen if Leo had decided to walk away instead of trying again?