

The Pillars of True Friendship

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

Read the passage below carefully. Use your best handwriting and full sentences to answer the questions, ensuring you justify your opinions where requested.

In the vibrant Meadow of Ideas, Pip the caterpillar and Zara the zebra often spend their afternoons discussing what it truly means to be a friend. Pip believes that friendship is like a well-tended garden; it requires patience, kindness, and regular effort to flourish. Zara, who notices patterns in everything, suggests that friendship is a beautiful mosaic. Each piece—honesty, loyalty, and laughter—must fit together to create a stable picture. Both friends agree that being a good companion is not about being identical, but about appreciating differences. When Pip felt discouraged about not being able to reach the high branches, Zara used her artistic eye to create a ramp out of fallen branches, demonstrating true empathy. They understand that disagreements are natural, but they resolve them by listening rather than just waiting to speak. By maintaining integrity and staying true to their values, they have built a bond that withstands challenges. A strong friendship acts as a safety net, providing security when the world feels unpredictable and celebrating successes with genuine, shared joy.

Word bank: empathy · integrity · mutual · reliability · perspective · supportive · compromise

1. Identify two qualities that Pip and Zara believe are essential for a stable friendship. (2 marks)

2. How did Zara demonstrate empathy towards Pip in the passage? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author use the metaphors of a 'garden' and a 'mosaic' to describe friendship? (3 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'listening rather than just waiting to speak' suggest about how the characters handle conflict? (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that a friendship acts as a 'safety net'? Justify your answer using examples from your own experiences or observations. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a creative 'Friendship Mosaic' where each piece of the mosaic is labelled with a positive trait, such as 'Honesty', 'Kindness', or 'Patience'.



Extension challenge: Explain why compromise is often necessary in a friendship. If two friends have completely different interests, how might they maintain their bond while respecting their individual identities? Write a short reflection on the importance of maintaining one's own values while being a supportive friend.