

The Architecture of Friendship: Building Strong Connections

Learning objective: To evaluate the qualities that build healthy, supportive friendships and understand how to navigate social challenges with empathy and integrity.

Read each scenario carefully and apply your understanding of positive social behaviours. Use the word bank to help articulate your reasoning for the deeper thinking questions.

Friendship is like a complex structure that requires a solid foundation. Just as Leo the lion leads his group with fairness, and Zara the zebra spots patterns in how people interact, true friends rely on trust and shared values. Navigating disagreements and celebrating differences are essential skills for maintaining healthy relationships throughout your school years and beyond.

Word bank: Empathy · Integrity · Boundaries · Conflict resolution · Mutual respect · Reliability · Inclusivity · Constructive

1. Max the monkey believes that friendship is like a mathematical equation. If 'Trust' + 'Communication' = 'Strong Friendship', explain how a breakdown in communication might affect the equation. (2 marks)

2. Kit the fox suggests that 'setting boundaries' is a positive part of friendship. Why is it important to say 'no' to a friend sometimes, and how can you do this while still showing kindness? (2 marks)

3. Imagine a classmate is being left out of a game. Using the concept of 'Inclusivity', describe two specific actions you could take to make them feel welcome. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast a 'fair-weather friend' with a 'loyal friend'. Use the word 'Reliability' in your explanation. (3 marks)

5. Justify why 'Empathy' is considered the most important quality when resolving a conflict between two friends. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Friendship Blueprint'. Illustrate the pillars of a strong friendship (like trust, kindness, and honesty) as if they were the structural supports of a sturdy, beautiful building.



Extension challenge: Write a short poem in the style of Leo the lion, exploring the theme of 'Growing Together'. Then, write a reflection on what might happen if one person in a friendship group stops listening to the others. How could the group restore balance?