

# The Ripple Effect of Kindness

*Learning objective: To understand the impact of individual actions on community wellbeing and explore the concept of empathy.*

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use evidence from the text to support your inferential answers.

In the bustling forest, Leo the lion noticed that Kit the fox looked particularly despondent after a difficult day of debugging complex code. Instead of simply walking past, Leo paused, offering a gentle smile and a quiet word of encouragement. He knew that even a small gesture could alter the trajectory of someone's day. This is the essence of kindness: it is not always about grand, expensive gifts, but rather the deliberate choice to acknowledge another person's feelings.

When we practise empathy, we step into someone else's shoes, viewing the world from their perspective. By showing compassion, we contribute to a stronger, more supportive community. Just as a single pebble cast into a pond creates ripples that travel far beyond the point of impact, our small acts of kindness radiate through our classrooms and playgrounds. Whether it is helping a friend who is struggling with their maths, or simply listening when someone needs to speak, these moments build trust. Kindness is a skill that requires practice and consistency, yet its rewards are immeasurable, fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and understood.

*Word bank: empathy · community · compassion · perspective · positive · impact*

## 1. Identify two specific examples of kindness mentioned in the passage. (2 marks)

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## 2. What does the author compare the spread of kindness to, and why is this an effective metaphor? (2 marks)

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## 3. Why might Kit have been feeling despondent before Leo approached him? (2 marks)

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## 4. Explain why the author suggests that kindness is a 'skill that requires practice'. (2 marks)

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**5. Do you agree that small acts of kindness are more important than grand gestures? Justify your answer using examples. (3 marks)**

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**Draw: Draw a scene showing a 'ripple effect' of kindness in your school playground, where one small act leads to other children helping each other.**



*Extension challenge: Write a short reflective paragraph (100 words) explaining how your perspective on kindness has changed after reading this passage. What might happen to a community if empathy was no longer considered important? Justify your reasoning.*