

Building Bridges: The Art of Positive Relationships

Learning objective: To understand the importance of healthy relationships and the qualities that sustain them, such as empathy, active listening, and mutual respect.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your knowledge of PSHE to answer the questions, ensuring you provide evidence from the text to support your ideas.

In the vibrant forest classroom, Max the monkey and Leo the lion often collaborate on projects. They have discovered that the foundation of a strong friendship is built on more than just shared interests; it relies on mutual respect and active listening. When they work together, they make a conscious effort to value each other's unique perspectives. If a disagreement arises regarding how to solve a maths puzzle, they do not shout or ignore one another. Instead, they pause to consider the other's viewpoint, using calm communication to reach a compromise that satisfies both parties.

Reliability is another cornerstone of their bond. By consistently showing up for one another and offering support during challenging tasks, they have cultivated a sense of trust. Empathy plays a vital role too; when Leo feels overwhelmed by a difficult poem, Max recognises this and offers gentle encouragement rather than criticism. This supportive environment allows both friends to flourish. By choosing kindness and honesty, they ensure their relationship remains resilient, proving that even when personalities differ, a connection can thrive through patience, understanding, and the willingness to learn from one another.

Word bank: empathy · mutual · perspective · compromise · constructive · reliability

1. Identify two qualities mentioned in the text that help Max and Leo maintain a strong friendship. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what action do Max and Leo take when they disagree on a solution? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that 'listening' is more than just hearing words? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the friendship if Max or Leo stopped being 'reliable'? Justify your answer. (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that compromise is always the best way to solve a disagreement? Explain why or why not, using an example to support your view. (4 marks) (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Max and Leo working together on a collaborative project. Include details that show they are communicating kindly, such as speech bubbles or helpful body language.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast a 'fair-weather' friendship with a 'resilient' friendship. Write a short paragraph explaining the difference and provide three 'golden rules' for building a lasting, positive relationship.