

The Garden of Friendship

A story about empathy



Positive Ending

KEY CONCEPT/ DISADVANTAGE

empathy, shyness

OBJECTIVES

- to understand the importance of empathy
- to learn that making friends takes time and patience
- to learn that small acts of kindness can build strong friendships and help others feel safe
- to practice reflecting on situations where they might need to adjust their approach to help others feel comfortable and supported

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION FOR POSITIVE ENDING

- Why do you think Henry finally decided to talk to Bella?
- How did Bella show kindness and patience to Henry?
- Have you ever met someone who was shy or didn't want to play right away?
- How can we make sure everyone feels included, even if they are different from us?

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Activity: "Friendship Role-Play" – A simple classroom activity where children act out different friendship scenarios. One child plays someone shy or nervous, while the other practices making them feel welcome with kind words and actions. This helps develop empathy and social skills. (<https://wordwall.net/resource/9414003/english/friendship>)
- "The Present" – This award-winning animated short film tells the story of a young boy who receives a special gift from his mother. The film beautifully portrays themes of empathy, acceptance, and friendship. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_nJHaNmN_Y

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Negative Ending

KEY CONCEPT/ DISADVANTAGE

empathy, shyness

OBJECTIVES

- to understand the importance of empathy
- to learn that making friends takes time and patience
- to understand that small acts of kindness can strengthen friendships and help others feel safe and valued.
- to develop the habit of reflecting on their behavior and adjusting it to ensure others feel comfortable and supported.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION FOR ENDING 1

- Why do you think Henry stayed in his ball and didn't join the party?
- How do you think Bella felt when she saw Henry still alone?
- What could Bella have done differently to help Henry feel included?
- Have you ever felt left out? What would have helped you feel better?

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- "Ian: A Moving Story" – This animated short film tells the story of a young boy with a disability, who faces exclusion from a group of children. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dLEO8mwYWQ>
- This segment from the "Garden Theater" series portrays Casey Caterpillar feeling excluded when unable to join Bette Bumblebee and Lucy Ladybug's flying game. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_5Ngu_mdhM&t=11s