



What makes a good friend?

Singer, Taylor Swift, is in the midst of her Eras Tour, singing to venues all around the world. One superfan has made hundreds of Taylor Swift inspired friendship bracelets to donate to people in care homes. 11-year-old, Devon, came up with the idea to give out the handmade bracelets after seeing how happy her 92-year-old great-grandmother, Margaret, was with the one she gave her. She hopes to inspire all generations to get involved in the bracelet craze.



- Look at this week's poster and share what you think this week's story could be about.
- After reading the story, discuss your experience of friendship bracelets. Have you ever made, given, or received one? Do you think they are a good way to show that you care?
- Can you think of other things you could do or give to show your friends how important they are to you?
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource and share your thoughts about the popularity of the Taylor Swift friendship bracelets and Devon's project.
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows one Taylor Swift fan's experience of the concert. Have you ever attended a show or event with friends? What was your experience?
- Thinking about some of your friends; what qualities do they have that make them a good friend to you?
- Do you think anyone could become friends (e.g., regardless of age, locality, or other differences)?

Reflection

A friend is someone you trust, understand, and can communicate well with. Good friends accept each other for who they are.



KS1 focus

What are some actions we can take to be a good friend?



- Write the word 'friend' on the whiteboard. What do you think makes a good friend? Think of a friend you have; what actions do they take that help to build and nurture your friendship?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some ideas of actions a good friend might take. Do you agree these actions can help us be a good friend? Can you think of anything else a good friend might do?
- Which actions do you think are most important? Which are the least important?
- What are some things a good friend might say?
- People sometimes say, 'Actions speak louder than words'. What do you think this means? Do you agree that actions are more important than words in a friendship? Does everyone feel the same?
- What are some things that a good friend would not do/say? Why are these things detrimental to a friendship? Have you ever done any of these things? What happened?
- Discuss the different elements of being a good friend with a partner. Think and talk about what you look for in a friend. Do you and your partner want the same things in a friend?
- Work as a class to share ideas to come up with a list of the top ways to be a good friend. How will you narrow down and order the options?
- Reflect on how you are a good friend. Is there anything you think you could do more/better?

Reflection

We can consider what makes a good friend in others. It is also important to reflect on our actions and words in our own friendships.



KS2 focus

What is the history and significance of friendship bracelets?



- Share any experiences you have had with friendship bracelets. Have you ever seen them being sold? Have you ever made one or know someone who has? Have you ever given or received one? What materials are used to make friendship bracelets?
- Friendship bracelets have been around for a very long time. Look at resource 2, which shares some information about their history. Were you aware of their origins? Does anything surprise you? Do you have any questions?
- In the 1970s and 80s, some people used friendship bracelets to symbolise peace, love and unity. What do you believe friendship bracelets symbolise? What do they mean to you? Do you think they are more important to some people than others?
- If you have ever given or received a friendship bracelet, share how it felt. If not, imagine how it might feel. Do you think receiving a friendship bracelet someone has made means more than one they bought? Why?
- Discuss who you would make a friendship bracelet for. What would you use to make it? What design/pattern might it be? Why would you make it this way? How would it be a symbol of your friendship with this person?
- Think about other ways you can recognise and celebrate your friendships.

Reflection

Traces of friendship bracelets can be found thousands of years ago. In modern times, some people use them to show how much they care for and value their friendships. We may prefer to show this care and value in different ways.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Create a poem inspired by friendship. Begin by discussing the following:

- What words can be used to describe a good friend?
- How do friends make you feel?
- Describe a fantastic moment with a friend and a difficult, low or sad moment.
- Can friendship be like something in nature, such as the sea, a rock or a tree? Does it change and grow? Is it solid?

Write your poem using any structure or poetry devices you choose!

Option 2

Design a friendship bracelet! Think about:

- What materials will you need? Colourful thread, beads, loom bands, grasses/flowers?
- What technique(s) will you use? Threading, knotting, plaiting, twisting?
- What colours, patterns, designs do you hope to create?

Gather your resources and make your friendship bracelet. Once you have completed it, evaluate your work. Consider:

- Did anything change from your original design? Why?
- Were any of the techniques you used easier or harder than expected?
- How pleased are you with the bracelet?

Perhaps you could recognise your class friendships with your bracelets, making sure everyone is able to give and receive one.

Picture News



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

With July fast approaching, you will be beginning to think about transitioning into new classes or year groups. Can you write a handy guide for the children moving up into your year, to help them to be a great friend to others? You might like to think about:

- What advice will you give?
- What actions or words will you include?
- How will you set out your guidance? E.g., as a poster, an acts of kindness jar, a letter.



Option 2

Plan something nice to do with or for a friend. It could be something small, like sitting together for lunch or giving them a hug! Or something else, like inviting them round for tea or making them something special such as a card or a friendship bracelet!

Picture News



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://bit.ly/4b108qq>

This week's useful video

Taylor Swift fan in Edinburgh
www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/av/69081393

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

Craze

Something that is very popular, often for just a short time.

She hopes to inspire all generations to get involved in the bracelet **craze**.

Dedicated

Existing for a specific purpose.

... there are even Facebook groups **dedicated** to swapping crafting tips and outfit ideas!

Donate

To give something - money, goods or time - for a good cause, e.g., to a charity.

One superfan has made hundreds of Taylor Swift inspired friendship bracelets to **donate** to people in care homes.

Generations

People grouped by age. A generation is around 30 years, about the time it takes for a person to be born, grow up and have children of their own.

She hopes to inspire all **generations** to get involved in the bracelet craze.

Qualities

Traits or characteristics that make a person who they are.

Thinking about some of your friends, what **qualities** do they have that make them a good friend to you?

Venues

The places that host organised events, such as sports competitions or concerts.

Singer, Taylor Swift, is in the midst of her Eras Tour, singing to **venues** all around the world.