

Friendship.

Friends are your 'mates'. They look after you, cry with you and laugh with you. Good friend qualities are being honest, trustworthy and understanding each other's feelings. Friends are your chosen family. Your friends are here to pick you up when you have fallen badly. True friends are the ones who last the longest and become family until God reclaims his creation, death. However, friendship is not about who you have known the longest, it is about who stepped into your life and said, "I'm here for you."

I will give an example of why I think this. You see, I have had many friends come and go during primary school. I have had a lot of friends, best friends and closer friends. The reason I have different friends is I can talk to them in different situations. I have friends for finding new movies to watch or new games to play. My best friends are who I feel good and happy around. My closest, best friends ever are the people who I can talk to and get advice for many problems (things that I sometimes, do not even tell my mother!) because I know I can trust them and get help from. One of them is called Simran Tamna, one of the closest friends I have. This is because she has always been there for me and laughed with me a lot. We also like the same things, FNAF (a retro video game) and the same songs.

Obviously, you cannot *always* have the perfect life with friends. They could betray you or just forget you after a mere two weeks of separation. Friends could ruin your life or just break your heart. This teaches you to create a stronger bond with true friends and let the fake ones reveal their true colours.

This is part of a famous story about friendship, and why you can't take true friends for granted. 'There once was a rock which stood old and alone amidst a stretch of sand. For a long time, it knew nothing except the lapping waves of the sea. Then one day a noisy bird came to rest on the rock—and began to annoy the rock with its endless chatter. Despite their hostile beginnings, the two began a friendship that evolved and changed over many years. Then one day when the bird did not return to the rock, the rock knew that his friend had died. And his world would return to what it once was, though now it was also filled with memories of his dearest friend.' (By Chew Chia Shao Wei from *The rock and the Bird*).

Some of the enemies of friendship are:

Money is an enemy of friendship. When friends lend or borrow money, there is great risk. Loans may not be paid, thus, affecting your friendship.

Vanity is another enemy of friendship. Everybody must have self-respect. When people boast about themselves or criticize friends, their relationship is impacted.

Some lonely people may pretend to be your friends; their soft words have enormous damage in the end.

In *Charlotte's web*, a pig named Wilbur gets a chance at life thanks to a little girl named Fern and a spider called Charlotte. The author shows that a real friend will help you, even if they don't gain anything by doing so. Throughout the book, Charlotte is always willing to help Wilbur. She spins words in her web to save Wilbur's life, even though it is tiring and difficult for her. She helps Wilbur for one reason only – because she cares about him. Templeton the rat, on the other hand, is not a real friend to Wilbur. He only helps him if there is something in it for him. When he is asked to help save Wilbur, he refuses and says, "Let him die." Later on, he pitches in, only because he has been promised Wilbur's meals.

The example of Templeton shows that mixing business and friendship can *strengthen* your bond. You see, business is all about sharing ideas and building your empire and that

includes talking together and researching things. You could also influence each other's career with flourishing ideas!

There are also other bad things that could happen in a toxic workplace partnership. Something called 'creative differences' can ruin projects, assignments and potentially ruin the whole business idea of yours. Creative differences are when two people have ideas but they are different to one another.

In conclusion, you cannot have a perfect life without friends, so you need to ensure that you choose them carefully. A good friend can be with you for life... if you find the right one!