

“In Love We Share, In Love We Grow” Thematic Book Series
– In Love of Home, the Love of Country Has Its Rise –

(Pre-reading)



A. Power of Acts of Kindness

1. Acts of kindness can happen in many ways – whether it is supporting a friend, caring for a family member, volunteering in your community, or even contributing to your country.

Before we read the story, recount your acts of kindness – What did you do? How did you and the recipient feel?

For a friend	For a family member	For the community	For our country
a)	b)	c)	d)

e) Concluding your experience, why do you think acts of kindness are important?



(While-reading)

B. Different Acts of Kindness



2. As you read the story, think about the characters' acts of kindness. Use the table below to summarise whom and how each character helped. Include specific details from the text to support your answers.

Character	Whom they helped	How they helped	Love demonstrated (Love for family / friends / community / country)
a) Joe	<i>e.g. His parents</i>	<i>e.g. He helped his parents clean the house to prepare for the Chinese New Year.</i>	<i>e.g. Love for family</i>
b) Emma			
c) Joe, Emma & Lucas			
d) Villagers			

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C. Sayings of Wisdom

3. At the end of the story, Joe quoted Charles Dickens: *“In Love of Home, the love of country has its rise.”*



a) What does this quote mean in simple terms?

b) How does this quote connect to Joe’s actions in the story?



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D. Identifying Tone

Tone reflects the speaker’s emotions, attitude, and personality. By paying attention to tone, we can gain deeper insights into a character’s feelings and values. In this activity, you will analyse how tone shapes our understanding of the characters in the story. You may listen to the audio as you read along to better understand the tone.

4. In the table below are some key quotes from the story. For each quote:

- identify **who is speaking**;
- describe the **tone** (e.g., polite, enthusiastic, worried, reflective); and
- explain **what the tone reveals** about the character’s emotions or values.



Quote	Who is speaking?	What is the tone?	What does the tone reveal?
<i>“You’re so sweet, Joe. Could you help me with the cat bed and tidy up your desk?”</i>	e.g. Mum	e.g. Warm, appreciative	<i>e.g. Mum’s tone reflects her gratitude and love for Joe’s initiative.</i>

Quote	Who is speaking?	What is the tone?	What does the tone reveal?
a) "By the way, nice T-shirt. You like pandas?" (p.19)			
b) "Exactly! There's so much more that is yet to be discovered about our own culture." (p.23)			
c) "What's the key to making scrumptious poon choi? What's the secret recipe?" (p.27)			
d) "It's teamwork and unity!" (p.27)			
e) "Today's experience reminds me of what Charles Dickens said: In Love of Home, the love of country has its rise." (p.28)			

(Post-reading)

E. Language Focus: Participial Phrases

"You're so sweet, Joe. Could you help me with the cat bed and tidy up your desk?" said Mum, beaming with delight. (p.8)

"Exactly! There's so much more that's yet to be discovered about our own culture," said Emma, nodding in agreement. (p.23)

Use of Participial Phrases

5. What is the use of the participial phrases "beaming with delight" and "nodding in agreement" in the descriptions above?

They help _____
_____.



Structure of Participial Phrases

beaming
nodding

with delight
in agreement

6a) Present participle: A verb ending in _____

6b) Modifiers or complements: Words that help _____ the meaning of the participle

7. Try to use the given words in the brackets to create participial phrases to make the descriptions more vivid. The first one has been done for you as an example.

(e.g.) Emma, ***gesturing in excitement***, agreed to show him the way. (gesture, excitement)

a) _____, the tourist shared stories about his travels. (nod, smile)

b) Mum asked Joe to help with the chores, _____ . (grin, hold a broom)

c) The villagers, _____, cheered and welcomed the volunteers. (clap together)

d) Joe said, "We've done so much together," _____ . (smile, satisfaction)



8. Rewrite the sentences below by adding a suitable participial phrase.

a) Joe asked, "Hey, Mum, what can I pitch in with?" (Hint: Add a participial phrase to describe Joe's tone or mood.)

b) The villagers showed the volunteers how to prepare poon Choi. (Hint: Add a participial phrase to describe the villagers' enthusiasm.)



F. Writing a Blog Post

9. Inspired by the tourist who shared his experiences of China and Joe's pride in sharing Chinese culture in the story, you would like to introduce local traditions through blogging. Write an engaging blog post about a local tradition or cultural practice.

You may consider introducing a festival celebration, a local food tradition, a neighbourhood custom (e.g., temple practices, local markets), a historical place, a traditional craft or art form (e.g., paper crafts, lion dance). Include pictures or other elements you find relevant.

