

**“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?

<b>For a friend</b>	<b>For a family member</b>	<b>For the community</b>	<b>For our country</b>
a)  <i>(Students' own answers)</i>	b)  <i>(Students' own answers)</i>	c)  <i>(Students' own answers)</i>	d)  <i>(Students' own answers)</i>

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

*(Students' own answers)*



(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.

<b>Character</b>	<b>Whom they helped</b>	<b>How they helped</b>	<b>Love demonstrated (Love for family / friends / community / country)</b>
<b>a) Joe</b>	<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</b>	<b>He agreed to assist Emma in helping the tourist find his way, even though he had other engagements.</b>	<b>Love for friends</b>
<b>b) Emma</b>	<b>Tourist</b>	<b>She took the time to guide the tourist and ensure he didn't get lost, showing kindness and hospitality.</b>	<b>Love for the community</b>
<b>c) Joe, Emma &amp; Lucas</b>	<b>Villagers</b>	<b>They helped prepare and organise the poon choi feast, contributing to a shared celebration for the village.</b>	<b>Love for the community</b>
<b>d) Villagers</b>	<b>Tourist</b>	<b>They welcomed the tourist at the poon choi feast and shared Chinese traditions and culture with him.</b>	<b>Love for our country</b>

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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?

The quote means that when we love and care about our home and family, we naturally grow to love and appreciate our country and culture. It is like a ripple effect – caring starts at home and spreads outward to caring about our wider community and heritage.

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

First, he helped his parents clean the house for Chinese New Year (showing love for home). Then, he helped a tourist and shared the local culture with him (showing love for the community). Finally, he participated in making poon Choi and was keen to introduce the traditions to the tourist (showing love for culture).



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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?”(p.8)</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)	Joe	Curious, friendly	Joe’s tone reflects his effort to connect with the tourist and his approachable personality.
b) “Exactly! There’s so much more that’s yet to be discovered about our own culture.” (p.23)	Emma	Reflective, proud	Emma’s tone demonstrates her pride in her cultural heritage.
c) “What’s the key to making scrumptious poon choi? What’s the secret recipe?” (p.27)	Tourist	Curious, enthusiastic	The tourist’s tone reflects his eagerness to learn about Chinese traditions and his interest in cultural experiences.
d) “It’s teamwork and unity!” (p.27)	Emma	Excited, confident	Emma’s tone shows her belief in the importance of collaboration and her enjoyment of the activity.
e) “Today’s experience reminds me of what Charles Dickens said: In Love of Home, the love of country has its rise.” (p.28)	Joe	Reflective and appreciative	Joe’s tone shows his deep appreciation for community values and his ability to connect daily experiences with broader life lessons.

(Post-reading)

(or other reasonable answers)

### 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 make the description more vivid / add descriptive details to the sentences / readers understand the emotions, attitudes, or actions of the characters.



#### Structure of Participial Phrases

beaming  
nodding

with delight  
in agreement

6a) Present participle: A verb ending in -ing

6b) Modifiers or complements: Words that help enhance 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) Nodding with a smile, the tourist shared stories about his travels. (nod, smile)

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

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

d) Joe said, “We’ve done so much together,” smiling with satisfaction. (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.)

Speaking eagerly, Joe asked, “Hey, Mum, what can I pitch in with?” (or any reasonable answers)

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

Sharing their traditions enthusiastically, the villagers showed the volunteers how to prepare poon choi. (or any reasonable answers)



## 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.

*(Students' own answers)*

