

Name _____

Empathy: Understanding and Connecting with Others

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Example answer: "Once, my friend was going through a tough time because their pet had passed away. I listened to them talk about their feelings, and I could tell they were really sad. I felt sad too, and I told them that I understood how much they loved their pet. We talked for a while, and it made my friend feel better to know that I cared and was there for them. It made me feel good too because I could see how much my support meant to them."
2. Example answer: "Let's say my younger brother wanted to spend all his money on buying video games, and I thought it was a waste of money. Instead of arguing, I would ask him why he wants to buy those games and listen to his reasons. Maybe he's really passionate about gaming, and it's important to him. I would try to understand his perspective, even if I don't agree with it, and suggest finding a balance between saving money and enjoying his hobby. This way, I could empathize with his interests while still looking out for his future."
3. Example answer: "I think some people might find it hard to express empathy because they may not have had the chance to learn about it or practice it. Others might be afraid of being vulnerable or getting too involved in someone else's emotions. Some people might also struggle with empathy if they haven't experienced similar feelings themselves, making it hard for them to relate to others."
4. Example answer: "In a world where empathy was common, people would be kinder and more understanding towards each other. Conflicts and misunderstandings would decrease because everyone would try to see things from different perspectives. People would be more willing to help and support each other, making the world a more caring and compassionate place. Problem-solving would improve too, as individuals and communities would work together to find solutions that consider everyone's needs and feelings."

