



***The world
is changed
by your
example,
not by your
opinion.***

Paulo Coelho

PATH

*Navigating the
Road of Duty*

GAINS

- ➔ *Learning to take ownership of their actions and decisions*
- ➔ *Taking responsibility to develop personal development and growth*
- ➔ *Setting an example for others and potentially taking on leadership roles*
- ➔ *Addressing challenges and finding solutions*
- ➔ *Staying committed to the goals and working persistently toward achieving them*



DIALOGUE

1 Read the dialogue between Mark and Diana discussing responsibility and answer the questions.

Diana: Hey, Mark, did you hear about the bridge collapse? It's pretty sad, right? They're blaming it on poor maintenance.

Mark: Yeah, Diana. It is disappointing to see how irresponsible some people are. Especially when it risks other people's lives. When people fail at fulfilling their responsibilities, they fail themselves and the society. "Responsibility" is the key word here. Being responsible for our society, nation, and of course ourselves.

Diana: Totally! Our actions have an effect on others. Even the slightest of neglect can have serious results, leading to devastation for those around us. Our choices and actions carry a heavy responsibility.

Mark: Maybe we all have a role to play in this. For instance, by checking on if public properties are well-maintained and reporting when necessary. When they get vandalized or neglected to collapse, it hurts our community in the end.

Diana: And let's not forget about responsibilities for ourselves too. Being responsible means making smart choices for our well-being, like staying healthy and focused. When we care for ourselves, we can be in a better position to help others and maintain things.

Mark: Right on! Speaking of society, we all must contribute positively. Whether it's volunteering, supporting social causes, or getting involved in civic duties, we can all make a difference, no matter how small.

Diana: Here's another crucial point: Our responsibility towards our nation. We must actively participate in the democratic process, respect the laws, and contribute to the social and economic development of our country. It's about being responsible citizens and encouraging others to do the same.

Mark: For sure! For so many opportunities it has given us, our country deserves to be given the best service and care in full responsibility. It's super important to represent our national values and push for progress. It's like the key to keeping our society stable and growing. We must stay true to our roots while shifting to make things even better. It's all about striking a balance between honoring our traditions and striving for a brighter future.

Diana: Here's my take: Responsibility is like the secret ingredient that makes us outstanding individuals and valuable citizens. Putting our skills to responsible use helps us understand the true meaning of every little action we take and creates a ripple effect. Talk about a loop of awesomeness!

Mark: Spot on, Diana! It all comes from a shared sense of responsibility. A sense of duty and responsibility is like a catalyst or a game-changer, blending compassion, justice, and harmony into a rich mix boosting positive change with commitment. This can inspire and spark real change, from individuals to nations.

- 1 What event prompted Diana to bring up the topic of responsibility?
- 2 How does Mark explain the costs of not taking responsibility for public property?
- 3 According to Diana, what important part of responsibility do people usually forget?
- 4 Give some examples of how individuals can make a positive impact on society, as mentioned by Mark.
- 5 How do Diana and Mark emphasize the importance of responsibility towards one's nation and community?



2 Help Emily and Magne complete the missing parts in the dialogue with the correct words and phrases below.

personal growth

responsibility

empathy

social fabric

vandalism

civic duties

well-being

democracy

national values

compassion





Emily: Good morning, Magne! Nice that you have come. Today's crossword on the newspaper is really a challenge, can you help me solve it?

Magne: Of course, Emily! I'll need your help, too. Let's see: "*Actions that harm or destroy public or private property.*" It is

Emily: Wonderful start! What about this one? "*The act of developing oneself intellectually, emotionally, or spiritually.*" Oh, I see! It is

Magne: Exactly, Emily. You see? We are two minds working as one here. Look at this: "*Duties or obligations related to being an engaged citizen in a community.*" The answer must be

Emily: A piece of cake for you, Magne. It is my turn, then: "*The concept of being accountable for one's actions or obligations.*" Oh, this is easy. It is

Magne: You said it was a challenge. Let's see if it is. "*The interconnectedness of a society, including its values, norms, and relationships.*" The answer must be

Emily: It is a challenge for me, but obviously not for you! This one seems a bit hard: "*The act of showing kindness, understanding, and concern for the suffering of others.*"

Magne: Easy! It is

Emily: Well done! My turn now: "*Core principles or beliefs that define the identity and character of a nation.*" Oh, I get it! It is

Magne: Great!

Emily: This one seems easy too: "*The act of showing care, concern, and understanding towards others.*"

Magne: You are right! It is

Emily: What about this one? "*The state of being mentally, emotionally, and physically healthy and content.*" Wait, I think I know this. It is, isn't it?

Magne: Well done! Here's the last one: "*The system of government in which power is vested in the people, who exercise it directly or through elected representatives.*" Easy! It is

SHORT STORY

1 The following story is about a girl called Merriam. Read the story. Find the topic of the story and what role Merriam played in the festival.

2 Read the story again. Use the phrases below to fill in the blanks.

Community Art Wall

Kindness Rocks

Seed Planting Station

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Merriam was known for her energetic enthusiasm and contagious laughter, but what set her apart from the other children was her sense of responsibility.

One sunny day, the director of Maryland Community School announced the upcoming Harmony Festival, a grand celebration that brought the families in the neighborhood together. Merriam was enthusiastic about being selected to the festival committee as she perceived it an opportunity to showcase her sense of responsibility.

She eagerly volunteered to organize the Children's Corner, a section dedicated to games and activities for the youngest members of the neighborhood. With a notebook in hand, she started planning a series of engaging activities that not only promised fun but also taught the importance of responsibility.

The first activity was the where children could plant their own flowers and learn about nurturing them. Merriam made sure to emphasize the significance of caring for something from the beginning, watching it grow, and taking responsibility for its well-being.

Next was the, where children collaborated to create a beautiful painted artwork depicting diverse talents and interests. She wanted to convey the idea that everyone had a role in contributing to the community, and by working together, they could create something truly special.

The final activity was the project. Each child decorated a rock with a positive message and then placed it in the communal garden. Merriam explained that just as the rocks would form a colorful garden, their acts of kindness could create a vibrant and supportive community.

As the day of the Maryland Harmony Festival arrived, parents watched with pride as their children planted seeds, painted the wall, and shared messages of kindness.

By the end of the festival, Merriam's efforts were recognized by the mayor and the community. And the children of Maryland learned that responsibility wasn't just a duty; it was a way to contribute to the greater good and make their community develop.

- 3 What activities did Merriam organize, and what was her goal in arranging such events?
- 4 Suggest a title for the story and write it into the blank space at the beginning of the narrative.
- 5 Consider arranging a festival in your school or neighborhood as a means to show your sense of responsibility.

**“PROJECT
WORK”**



6

How do you view the concept of taking personal responsibility and being accountable for the choices we make in our lives? Discuss with your friends.

Describe the choice made by the young man in the story below and explain the actions he took.

Roots of Responsibility: A Village's Environmental Revival

In a village once, there lived a young man with a unique perspective. He firmly believed in individual responsibility and accountability for life choices. One day, the village leader tasked him with inspecting the nearby forests and reporting on their condition. Accepting the mission, the young man ventured into the woods.

As he explored, he observed the distressing state of the environment—trees were cut down, the forest turned into a dumping ground, and the natural ecosystem was in disarray. Rather than merely compiling a report, he took it upon himself to address the issue. Collaborating with the village leader and fellow villagers, he initiated a forest protection project.

Beyond reporting, the young man led discussions on the forest's state and devised a plan for rehabilitation. Together with the community, they cleared the forest, developed a tree-planting strategy, and actively participated in the restoration efforts. Taking on a leadership role, the young man guided the villagers, encouraging their collective involvement in the project.

In the end, the forest conservation project proved a triumph. The woodland regained its health, natural life flourished once more, and the villagers, united in purpose, took responsibility, fostering a heightened sense of social awareness within the community.



- 7 How can you contribute to your neighborhood, and what actions can you take to uphold responsibilities for maintaining a clean environment? Make a list in your notebook.

NOTE

A Sense of Responsibility

A person should not seek to escape from the problems he/she experiences, but should aspire to confront and solve them. In this respect, we must first know what kind of responsibilities we have, and then we must do our best to do justice to our position. If we move along such a line, it means we are walking on a good path. Another thing that needs to be taken into consideration in this regard is that all activities and deeds should be done with sincerity. While lifting a stone that could harm people on the road, reaching out to the needy, resolving disputes between people, bringing them together around common issues are some of the activities that show our sense of responsibility. To elaborate a little more, sometimes treating a single person, restoring his health, relieving his pain and suffering, receiving his prayers can bring us bliss, by measure of sincerity. Imagine what a universal act of worship it is to develop projects to prevent fights and conflicts across humanity!



CONCEPTS

NOTE

Responsibility is a multi-faceted concept that encompasses various related ideas and principles. Here are some key concepts closely associated with responsibility:

Accountability, Reliability, Duty, Ethics, Integrity, Self-Discipline, Proactive Attitude, Communication, Teamwork, Adaptability, Punctuality, Empathy, Continuous Learning, Being Organized

Understanding and embodying these concepts can contribute to a well-rounded sense of responsibility in various aspects of life, including personal relationships, work, and community involvement.

- 1 Responsible individuals exhibit certain behaviors and qualities that contribute to their ability to fulfill obligations and contribute positively to various aspects of life. Here are some characteristics and behaviors associated with responsible people. Can you match them with the key concepts in the NOTE section.**

1. Responsible individuals take ownership of their actions, decisions, and commitments. They don't blame others for their mistakes but instead acknowledge their role in both successes and failures.
2. Being consistent and dependable is a hallmark of responsibility. Reliable individuals can be trusted to follow through on their promises and meet deadlines.
3. Responsible people uphold honesty and moral principles in their actions. They align their behavior with their values and strive to do what is ethically right.
4. Rather than waiting for things to happen, responsible individuals take initiative. They anticipate needs, identify potential issues, and address them before they become significant problems.
5. Being organized helps in managing time, resources, and tasks efficiently. Responsible individuals plan ahead, prioritize effectively, and maintain a structured approach to their responsibilities.
6. Clear and effective communication is crucial for responsible behavior. Responsible individuals keep others informed, listen actively, and express themselves in a manner that fosters understanding.
7. Responsible individuals exhibit self-control and discipline. They resist impulsivity and make choices that align with their long-term goals and commitments.
8. Understanding and considering the needs and feelings of others is a key aspect of responsibility. Responsible individuals show empathy and consider the impact of their actions on those around them.
9. Responsible individuals have a growth mindset and seek opportunities for personal and professional development. They are open to learning from experiences and strive to improve themselves over time.
10. Responsible individuals take care of resources, whether they are natural, financial, or human. They understand the importance of responsible management and sustainable practices.
11. Being on time for commitments and appointments is a sign of responsibility. It shows respect for other people's time and demonstrates a commitment to meeting obligations.

NOTE

The opposite of responsibility is often considered to be irresponsibility. Irresponsibility refers to a lack of accountability, reliability, or a failure to fulfill obligations and duties. Irresponsible behavior may involve neglecting tasks, not taking ownership of one's actions, and disregarding the potential consequences of one's choices. Key traits associated with irresponsibility include a lack of commitment, an unwillingness to meet obligations, and a disregard for the impact of one's actions on oneself and others. Irresponsible behavior can lead to negative consequences and may erode trust in personal relationships, work environments, and communities.

- 2** Classify the following concepts based on whether they express a positive or negative attitude towards responsibility.

Positive Concepts	Negative Concepts		
		Proactive Attitude	Impulsivity
		Defensiveness	Self-discipline
		Entitlement	Blame-shifting
		Integrity	Indifference
		Avoidance	Reliability
		Adaptability	Being Organized
		Accountability	Dishonesty
		Procrastination	Communication
		Irresponsibility	Punctuality
		Teamwork	Negligence

- 3** Can you explain the negative attitudes in the table above? Do you strive to avoid these negative traits? Discuss with your classmates.

POWERFUL WORDS

1 Choose three from the following inspirational quotes and explain them shortly in your words.

“**With** (9) great power comes great responsibility.”

– Spider-Man

“The **world** (7) is changed by your example, not by your opinion.”

– Paulo Coelho

“Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.”

– George Bernard Shaw

“If **you** (2) take responsibility for yourself, you will develop a hunger to accomplish your dreams.”

– Les Brown

“**Start** (8) by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

– Saint Francis of Assisi

“You must take personal responsibility. You cannot change the circumstances, the seasons, or the wind, but you can change **yourself** (10).”

– Jim Rohn

“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still, I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse **to** (4) do something that I can do.”

– Helen Keller

“If you **want** (3) to be responsible, keep your promises to others.

If (1) you want to be successful, keep your promises to yourself.”

– Marie Forleo

“Change your thoughts and you **change** (5) your world.”

– Norman Vincent Peale

“It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do.”

– Moliere

“You cannot escape **the** (6) responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”

– Abraham Lincoln

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.

1

2

3

2 Find out the hidden message in the powerful words above by sequencing the numbers and write the message in the blanks below.

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REFLECTIONS

Short Debate: Social and Personal Responsibilities

- 1 Divide the class into two groups: Group A and Group B.
- 2 Group A will support the importance of personal responsibility, while Group B will argue for the significance of social responsibility.
- 3 In your groups, have 10 minutes to prepare your arguments. You must use the words and concepts above to strengthen your points.
- 4 Once both groups are ready, start the debate. Each group can take turns presenting their arguments and counter-arguments.
- 5 After the debate, open the floor for a class discussion where you can share your thoughts and views. You can steer the discussion by answering the following:
 - a From the arguments presented, which points caught your attention?
 - b In what ways do personal responsibility and social responsibility overlap or interact with each other?
 - c Do you think personal and social responsibility can coexist? Do you believe one holds greater significance than the other? Why?
 - d How can these concepts of responsibility be applied in everyday situations or in the real world?
 - e What are some challenges people may encounter when trying to practice personal or social responsibility?

**GROUP
WORK**

NOTE

Humans are the only creatures in the world that possess a sense of responsibility. With intelligence and willpower that are not found in other beings, humans are unique individuals characterized by their own beliefs, value judgments, and lifestyles. The deliberate actions of humans bring forth three types of responsibilities:

Conscientious (Moral) Responsibility:

The conscience that humans are born with and feel within allows them to distinguish right from wrong. Each individual, following their inner guidance, feels a moral responsibility for the consequences of their actions. This requires an individual to be honest and fair to themselves and their surroundings. The notion that 'what feels right inside is good, and what causes discomfort inside is bad' forms the basis of conscientious responsibility.

Social Responsibility:

Social responsibility requires individuals to consider not only themselves but also the society they live in. The interactions of individuals with other people in society and the consequences of these interactions define their social responsibilities. This includes the effort of individuals for the common good of society, the protection of the environment, and the support of social justice. The social environment acts as an authority that monitors and evaluates such responsibilities.

Ethical and Humanitarian Responsibility:

This is based on the idea that an individual serves a purpose greater than themselves, works for the general well-being of society, and respects universal human rights. Ethical and humanitarian responsibility also encompasses the effort to distinguish right from wrong based on one's own belief and value system, and to show respect for general human values. Moral and ethical declines can be seen as the consequences of violating such responsibilities.

- 1 After reflecting on the text above, please write down your responsibilities in the boxes provided below.

My Responsibilities	

My Social Responsibilities	

My Ethical and Humanitarian Responsibilities	

- 2 Think about the meaning conveyed in the following story and discuss with your friends.

The Responsibility Conundrum: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody

This story is about four individuals named Everybody, Anybody, Somebody, and Nobody. An important task needed to be done, and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody would do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

"You are not only responsible for what you say but also for what you do not say."

– Martin Luther King Jr.



- 3 Take some time to reflect on situations in your life where you remained silent when you could have spoken up. Consider instances where your silence may have had an impact on yourself or others. Write about these situations and explore the reasons behind your choice to remain silent. Did it align with your values and principles? What could have been the consequences of speaking up? How did your silence affect the situation?

FURTHER READING

- 1 Delve into each part of the story with care and attention. After reading, take a moment to reflect on the questions provided. Your answers should be as insightful and detailed as the story itself, demonstrating a deep comprehension of the themes and nuances presented.

Once there was a prince who, despite having all kinds of financial means, complained of boredom, feeling that life was not worth living. While his siblings and friends would go out, hunt, and have fun, he would shut himself in his room, constantly in thought. His father, the ruler, was deeply saddened by his son's state. One day, the ruler summoned the wisest person in the kingdom to his palace, described his son's condition, and asked for a solution. He gave the wise man a week to find a solution, warning that failure could cost him his life.

After thinking for a few days and finding no solution, the wise man decided to flee the country to save his life. While leaving the country, sad and inattentive, he befriended a young shepherd tending his sheep and goats. Gaining courage from this interaction, the young shepherd asked the wise man to watch his flock while he went to the nearby village to get some provisions he had forgotten. The wise man gladly agreed.

While watching the animals, worried about the events he had encountered, a kid goat rolled down a cliff. The goat could not save itself without support. To faithfully keep his promise to the young shepherd, the wise man decided to rescue the goat himself. He went down the cliff, tied the goat to his back, and started climbing up. Several attempts failed, but the wise man did not give up. After much effort and struggle, he finally managed to bring the goat to safety. Being so engrossed in keeping his promise and rescuing the goat, he forgot that he was fleeing the country to save his own life. However, this situation led to a realization.

2 Continue the story above according to your imagination under the following guidance.

- 1** What kind of suggestion do you think the wise man made to the ruler to improve the Prince's condition? Your suggestion should be both creative and appropriate for the prince's situation.

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- 2** How do you think the Prince reacts to the wise man's suggestion? What kind of emotions does this suggestion evoke in him, and how does it affect his thoughts?

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- 3** At the end of the story, what change does the prince undergo? How does this change affect his personality, thoughts, or life?

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3 Now your responsibility is to figure out what the wise man advises to the ruler. You will find it if you find out how to read it correctly.

The wise man, abandoning his idea of fleeing, immediately returned and presented this solution to the ruler:



“Ym drol, fi uoy tnaw ruoy nos ot emocrevo
sih moderob dna egagne htiw efil, evig mih
ytilibisnopser, gnihtemos ot ypucco sih
emit. ehT toor fo moderob dna gninialpmoc
tuoba efil si sseneldi. ehT erom suoires dna
laitneuqesnoc eht ytilibisnopser uoy evig
ruoy nos, eht erom eh lliw eerf flesmih morf
moderob dna eht retaerg sih tsez rof efil dna
noitanimreted lliw esaercni.”