

Planting Seeds of Kindness: A Homeschooler's Journey of Giving Back

1. Reading Comprehension Passage

Paris grew up learning that education is not only about gaining knowledge, but also about shaping one's character. Throughout her homeschooling journey, Dr. Lai reminded her that every lesson—whether in science, life education, or daily life—was also a chance to plant a good seed in her heart. These seeds were kindness, empathy, courage, and a sense of responsibility to society.

Homeschooling gave Paris the freedom to explore her interests deeply, but it also gave her something even more valuable: time to notice the needs of others. Whether she was studying physics and AI, helping with family responsibilities, or reflecting on life values, she learned that every subject carried a lesson about compassion. She saw that many students in Hong Kong, especially those who were educationally marginalized, lacked opportunities and support. Instead of turning away, Paris chose to shine a light on them. She volunteered, shared her learning experiences, helped build a supportive homeschool ecosystem by designing worksheets, creating free resources for homeschooling families, redesigning and maintaining the hsa.hk website, and composing homeschooling songs for the Hong Kong Homeschool Association. Through these efforts, she discovered that every act of kindness—big or small—creates a ripple of positive change.

Paris learned that giving back is not something to do only after becoming “successful.” It is a lifelong journey. By spreading kindness along the way, she not only helped others grow, but also deepened her own sense of purpose.

2. Vocabulary List

Word	Meaning
Empathy	Understanding and sharing the feelings of others
Marginalized	Treated as unimportant or pushed to the edge of society
Ecosystem	A supportive system where different parts work together
Compassion	A deep awareness of others' suffering and a desire to help
Responsibility	A duty or obligation to act in a certain way
Ripple effect	A spreading influence that starts small and grows outward
Purpose	A meaningful reason for doing something
Uplift	To raise someone's spirits or improve their situation

3. Open-Ended Questions

- Why did Dr. Lai encourage Paris to plant “good seeds” during her homeschooling journey?
- How did studying physics and AI help Paris understand compassion in new ways?
- What actions did Paris take to support the homeschool community in Hong Kong?
- Why does the passage describe giving back as a “lifelong journey”?
- How did Paris’s acts of kindness strengthen her sense of purpose?

4. Close-Ended True/False Questions

- Paris believed that giving back should wait until she became successful.
- Homeschooling helped Paris notice the needs of marginalized students.
- Paris contributed to the homeschool ecosystem by redesigning the hsa.hk website.
- The passage states that kindness helped Paris deepen her sense of purpose.
- Paris used her skills only for her own academic achievements.

5. Multiple-Choice Questions

1. What is one of the “good seeds” mentioned in the passage?

- A. Perfection
- B. Empathy
- C. Competition
- D. Wealth

2. Why did Paris choose to support marginalized students?

- A. She wanted recognition
- B. She was required to do so
- C. She noticed their needs and wanted to help
- D. She needed extra credit

3. Which of the following is not one of Paris’s contributions to the homeschool ecosystem?

- A. Designing worksheets
- B. Creating free resources
- C. Redesigning the hsa.hk website
- D. Opening a private tutoring business

4. According to the passage, what makes giving back meaningful?

- A. It leads to awards

- B. It helps build competition
- C. It strengthens one's sense of purpose
- D. It replaces academic study

5. What metaphor is used to describe the impact of kindness?

- A. A locked door
- B. A ripple effect
- C. A heavy burden
- D. A mountain

6. Answer Key

Open-Ended Questions (Sample Answers):

1. Dr. Lai wanted Paris to grow into a kind, responsible person who contributes positively to society.
2. Studying physics and AI taught Paris to think deeply and observe the world, which strengthened her empathy.
3. She designed worksheets, created free resources, redesigned and maintained the hsa.hk website, composed homeschooling songs, and shared her learning experiences.
4. Because kindness is something to be practiced throughout life, not only after achieving success.
5. Her acts of kindness helped her understand her purpose and feel more connected to her community.

Close-Ended Questions (True/False):

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. False

Multiple-Choice Questions:

1. B. Empathy

2. C. She noticed their needs and wanted to help
3. D. Opening a private tutoring business
4. C. It strengthens one's sense of purpose
5. B. A ripple effect

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