Section 1:

#1 "Kindness is often seen as the ultimate virtue—the quality we should always strive for. But humour, too, has the power to change someone's day, to be resourceful and engaging. Sometimes, we must choose between the two, deciding what benefits both ourselves and others. It's a choice that can feel difficult, even conflicting. I learned this lesson the hard way when my friend and I found ourselves deep in a project—and an unexpected crisis."

Strengths: Your introduction effectively establishes the central conflict between kindness and honesty. You've created a thoughtful philosophical framework before moving into your personal narrative. → However, this introduction lacks specific details about the project itself. What exactly were you working on? What was at stake? Adding these concrete details would ground your reader in the situation more effectively and create stronger investment in the outcome.

Perhaps you should begin with: "Last term, my friend Lily and I were paired for our Year 6 History project on Australian explorers, worth 40% of our final mark."

#2 "After our break, she presented her poster to me with pride, waiting for compliments—perhaps hoping for validation more than constructive feedback. I wanted to encourage her, to lift her up, but I also wanted to be honest. Instead, I hesitated. The words sat heavy in my chest, refusing to come out. Instead of giving real feedback, I muttered a forced excuse to leave, retreating to my house just a few metres away. That was how close we were—how strong our friendship was. I couldn't risk breaking that bond."

Strengths: Your emotional description creates tension and shows your internal struggle. The physical description of words feeling "heavy in your chest" effectively conveys your discomfort. → This section misses an opportunity to show dialogue. Rather than telling us about your hesitation, showing an actual conversation would make this moment more dramatic and engaging. Include what you actually said to your friend to avoid giving feedback.

"Your poster looks... interesting. I need to dash home quickly to get my coloured markers. I'll be back in a tick!" Then I'd have a moment to think about how to be honest without hurting her feelings.

#3 "Looking back, I realise kindness was the right choice in this situation. But next time, maybe I'll lean on humour—if there is a next time. Because kindness, above all else, is what

brings people together. It is what strengthens friendships and builds trust. And when paired with honesty, it can make all the difference. BE KIND!!!!!!!!!!"

Strengths: Your conclusion circles back to your opening theme, creating a satisfying structure. The emotional emphasis shows how strongly you feel about the lesson learned. → The ending feels rushed and doesn't fully resolve the tension between kindness and humour that you established at the beginning. What specific role did humour play in this resolution? How might you use humour differently next time? Also, the multiple exclamation marks after "BE KIND" come across as heavy-handed.

"Your poster has so much potential—just like my drawing skills after three cups of cordial!" A gentle joke could make difficult feedback easier to hear while still being honest. Because when kindness and honesty work together, friendships become stronger than ever.

■ Your narrative shows promise with its thoughtful exploration of balancing honesty and kindness in friendship. The emotional journey feels authentic, but your story needs more sensory details to bring scenes to life. When you describe working until "our fingers trembled like an earthquake," that vivid image stands out—add more of these! Consider expanding key moments where decisions are made. For instance, when you finally decide to speak honestly, what exactly prompted this courage? Was there a specific trigger? Additionally, you could strengthen the middle section by showing how your avoidance affected both of you during that week of tension. What specific behaviours changed? How did your friend react to your sudden distance? Try adding dialogue throughout to make interactions more immediate and engaging. Also, the transition between avoiding the conversation and finally having it feels abrupt—build this moment with more tension so we feel your relief more strongly when your friend responds positively.

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Section 2:

Kindness vs. Humour: A Lesson in Friendship "

A smile is a curve that sets everything straight. Unless it's creepy—then maybe not." — Phyllis Diller

#1 Kindness is often seen as the ultimate virtue—the quality we should always strive for. But humour, too, has the power to change someone's day, to be resourceful and engaging.

Sometimes, we must choose between the two, deciding what benefits both ourselves and others. It's a choice that can feel difficult, even conflicting. I learned this lesson the hard way when my friend and I found ourselves deep in a project—and an unexpected crisis.

At first, I was thrilled to work with my friend, excited to share ideas and collaborate. When we arrived home, we got straight to work, pouring effort into our posters until our fingers trembled like an earthquake shaking the ground. Hours passed, and exhaustion settled in. Finally, we took a break.

I turned back to examine our projects. Mine was clean, detailed, carefully arranged—it looked like a masterpiece worthy of a gallery. But when I glanced at my friend's work, I saw the opposite: messy, unfinished, scattered. It took all my effort not to gasp or even snicker. I wanted to be kind, but humour—especially the truth wrapped in a joke—can lead to kindness, too. She looked at me, eyes filled with expectation, waiting for praise. I knew she wanted reassurance, but I also knew her work needed improvement.

#2 After our break, she presented her poster to me with pride, waiting for compliments—perhaps hoping for validation more than constructive feedback. I wanted to encourage her, to lift her up, but I also wanted to be honest. Instead, I hesitated. The words sat heavy in my chest, refusing to come out. Instead of giving real feedback, I muttered a forced excuse to leave, retreating to my house just a few metres away. That was how close we were—how strong our friendship was. I couldn't risk breaking that bond.

For a week, emotions swirled in my mind, overwhelming me until I knew I had to say something. I wanted to be kind. I wanted to be honest. But could I do both?

After school one day, I walked home with my friend as usual. I laughed with our classmates, joked with teachers, and spread warmth wherever I could. But halfway home, my legs stopped moving. My friend nudged me to keep going, puzzled by my hesitation. I took a deep breath. It was time.

"Remember that first day when we worked on our projects?" I began carefully. "When I saw yours, I felt it wasn't neat or detailed enough. I've been acting strange ever since, torn between kindness and truth. I didn't want to hurt your feelings, but I also wanted to help. I thought you might be upset—that our friendship might change. But I need to be honest with you."

Silence. I braced myself, expecting frustration or disappointment. Instead, my friend's expression softened. She stepped forward and wrapped me in a hug. I blinked, stunned, before hugging her back.

Then she smiled and said, "You can help me, and I can help you."

From that moment, we worked together, balancing kindness with honesty. We ensured our projects reflected our best efforts, focusing on different aspects each day so everything received equal care. When the big day arrived, presenting felt effortless.

I spoke first, guiding my classmates through the journey I had crafted, my voice strong and confident. My friend followed, and I felt pride in the time we had devoted. The class and our teacher applauded her, making her flush with both pride and embarrassment. Then, she coughed, catching everyone's attention before giving me a shoutout.

"If it weren't for my friend, I would have failed," she admitted. A moment of silence—and then the room erupted into applause. Now it was my turn to flush with embarrassment and pride, joining my friend, our problem solved.

#3 Looking back, I realise kindness was the right choice in this situation. But next time, maybe I'll lean on humour—if there is a next time.

Because kindness, above all else, is what brings people together. It is what strengthens friendships and builds trust. And when paired with honesty, it can make all the difference.

BE KIND!!!!!!!!!!