



T H E M E S

Friendship is one of the key themes in “War Horse”. This theme is explored in the following extract from the beginning of Morpurgo’s novel.

Read the extract carefully, and then select words or phrases that you think communicate emotions.

Albert was about the same height as me and talked so gently as he approached that I was immediately calmed and not a little intrigued, and so stood where I was against the wall. I jumped at first when he touched me but could see that he meant me no harm. He smoothed my back first and then my neck, talking all the while about what a fine time we would have together, how I would grow up to be the smartest horse in the whole wide world, and how we would go out hunting together...I knew then that I had found a friend for life, that there was an instinctive and intimate bond of trust and affection between us.

1. Compare your ideas with a partner and be ready to explain your selection.
2. Now think back to the stills you chose to illustrate friendship from the film’s trailer. How would you compare the way the trailer shows the key themes to the way they are explored in the novel?