



Take a good look at yourself

Challenger characteristic: To begin to understand how we can respect ourselves.

Sparkshower checked that the coast was clear, then crept into the room. He knew that his dad, as Grand Wizard, would be busy advising the king. He also knew that his dad had the only mirror in the kingdom outside the palace. This was his chance.

He had seen the cool kids clicking their fingers, striking poses and saying, 'Respect' to each other. He was desperate to be just like them so he had come to practise.

He stood at an angle, folded his arms and nodded knowingly – just like he had seen the others doing. 'Respect!' he said in an unnaturally deep voice.

His reflection, however, sighed and shook his head. Then, he straightened his cloak and magicked away a porridge stain that had dribbled down his front at breakfast.

The next day, Sparkshower tried again. This time, he clicked his fingers at the mirror and said, 'Yo! Sparkster!'

His reflection bit his lip as if trying not to laugh and said, 'Hello, how are you today, Sparkshower?' Then, he magically produced a toothbrush and cleaned his teeth before flashing Sparkshower a dazzling smile. When Sparkshower smiled back, the mirror changed to a real reflection, complete with old spinach stuck between yellowy-grey teeth.

On the third day, Sparkshower tried to practise his cool moves again but the mirror just stared back. This was too much for Sparkshower. 'WHY DON'T YOU DO WHAT I DO?' he yelled. 'IT'S MY FACE AND YOU HAVE TO DO WHATEVER I DO. IT'S NOT FAIR!' By this time, Sparkshower was lying face down, pummelling the floor with his fists. When he looked up, the reflection had disappeared altogether.

On the fourth day, Sparkshower knocked, went in and stood in front of the mirror again. His reflection had clean clothes, clean teeth and a slightly embarrassed expression. 'Look, I'm sorry about yesterday,' he said. 'It was wrong of me to shout at you like that. I'll really try not to let it happen again.'

His reflection stopped mirroring exactly what Sparkshower was doing, smiled and said, 'Respect.'



Please read through the questions overleaf and write some sentences to show your answers.

Questions

How is the mirror in this story different from normal mirrors?

What do you think it was trying to teach Sparkshower?

In what ways was Sparkshower not showing self-respect?

What could you do to show that you respect yourself?
