



Learning By Example A [Student's Name] Tree

Intermediate to Advanced



Becoming Good Citizens (A Pestalozzi Approach)

Learning by Example

Instructions to Students:

Think of yourself as a tree

Think of your 'roots' – the different people or places that have influenced or taught you. In what ways have they done this?

Think of your 'trunk' and 'branches' – What you can do using your head, heart and hands to help yourself, other people and the natural world

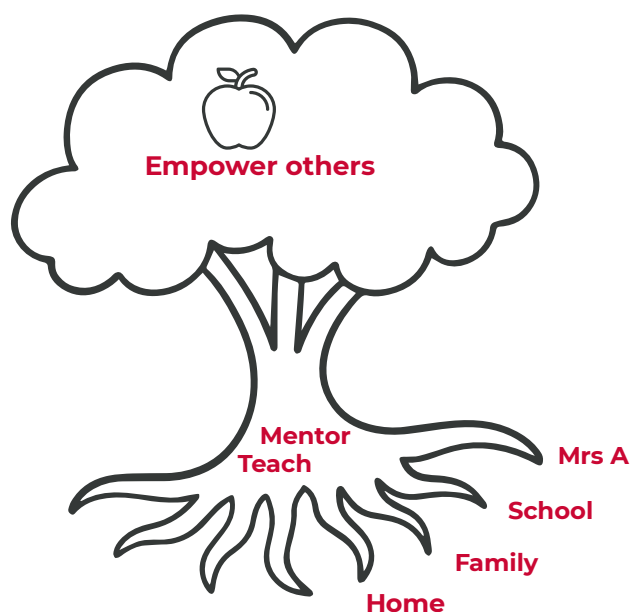
Think of your 'leaves' and 'fruit' – The possible outcomes of what you can do

The teacher draws his or her Tree, discussing it with the students while writing examples of sentences for the Roots, for the Trunk and Branches and for the Leaves and Fruit.

Each student draws his or her own Tree, writing on it his or her own Roots, Trunk and Branches and Leaves and Fruit sentences. Each student writes his or her name on the trunk. They then discuss each other's work.

Materials Needed

- Sheets of paper
- Colouring pens for each student

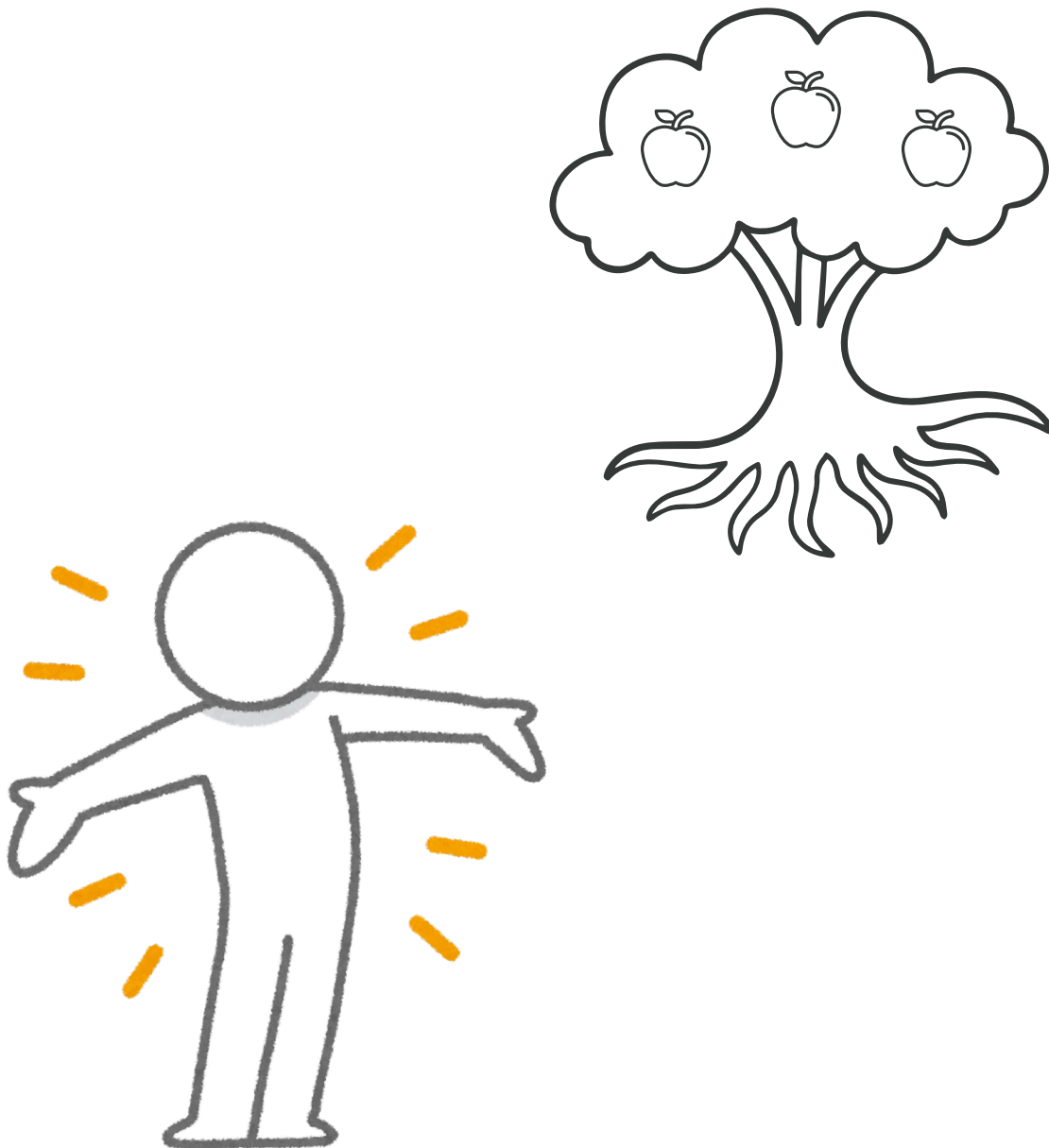




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Pestalozzi believed that we learn by example. So if someone is kind to me I am likely to be kind to someone else. If someone teaches me something well I am likely to want to teach that thing to others and to teach it well. If someone helps me I will want to help others. He therefore believed that the individuals we know early in life have a great influence over our future actions. He also taught that we should use our head, heart and hands to help others. In his speeches and his writing, Pestalozzi used the tree as an analogy for the education of the child.





Learning By Example

A [Student's Name] Tree

Continued

Tech/AI enhancements

Digital Tree Mapping

Students could use a collaborative digital canvas like Miro, Jamboard, Canva or Google Slides:

- Create a template tree with editable roots, trunk/branches, leaves, fruit
- Students drag text boxes, icons, photos and audio clips to represent their ideas
- Add hyperlinks to online resources or role-model profiles that inspired them

Why this matters?

- Supports visual organisation of ideas
- Encourages students to connect influences and outcomes with digital evidence
- Builds tech fluency in creative multimedia tools

Pestalozzi used the tree analogy to describe education and human development. To further illustrate this idea students could pick a role model from their community or history and research online alongside asking AI to summarise how that person's "roots" shaped their actions and outcomes.

Example prompts:

- "Who influenced [Role Model] most and how did that shape their work?"
- "What outcomes (fruits) resulted from this person's actions?"

Compare the role model tree to their own and their own research/AI's summaries checking for accuracy.

Why this matters?

- Connects students personal reflection to real-world models
- Helps students see patterns across differing lives
- Reinforces the Pestalozzian idea that learning from examples builds character and purpose
- Further opportunity for students to use and discuss the use/pros and cons of AI vs their independent research