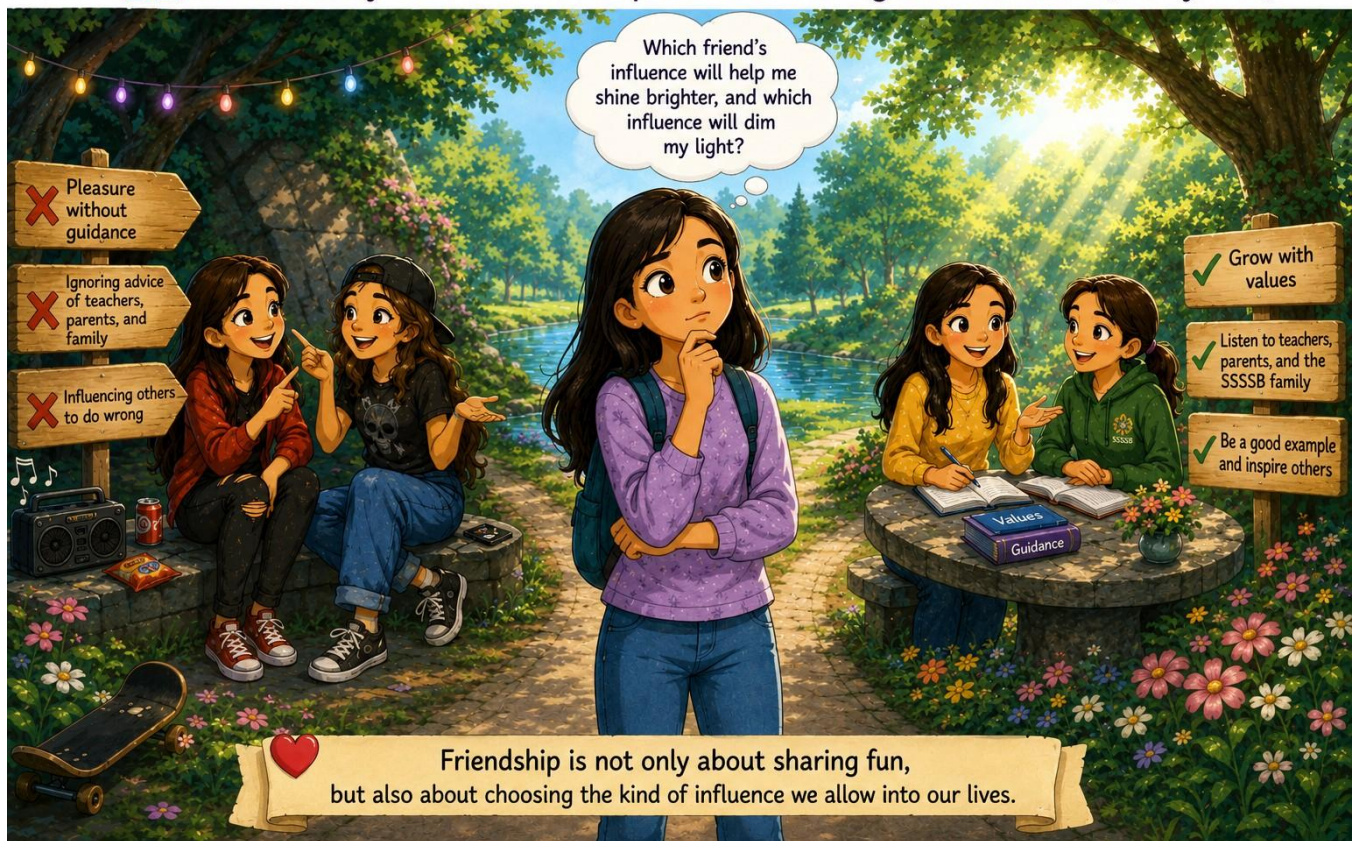


🇬🇧 SSSSB Story 059b: Friendship's Influence: Light or Shadow [13+ years]



Once upon a time, there were three girls in the 8th grade.

Friend 1 paused to reflect: *"What kind of influence does my friendship have on my friends? And what kind of influence do they have on me? Let me talk to them and find out."*

She turned to her two closet friends, who had walked beside her since the UKG class.

Friend 2 spoke: *"We've been friends for so long. I like to do what I enjoy, and I often invite you to join me. Sometimes, even if teachers, parents, or family don't approve of what I do, sometimes, I ignore their advice, or don't listen to them. I feel free when I follow my own way, and I try to bring others along too. That's why I think we're good friends — we enjoy the same things together. I even try to convince other classmates to join us."*

Friend 3 shared her heart: *We've also been friends since UKG. But I believe true friendship means helping each other grow. I try to do what is right, because what is good for me is good for everyone. I listen to the guidance of teachers, parents, and our SSSSB family. I've always wanted you to walk this path too, because it is good for you too. I think we are good friends because we grow spiritually together and try to set a good example for others. I hope more classmates will join us.*

Friend 1 listened deeply. She realized that friendship is not only about sharing fun, but also about **choosing the kind of influence we allow into our lives**. One friend pulled her toward pleasure without guidance, while the other lifted her toward values, wisdom, and spiritual growth.

And so Friend 1 asked herself: *"Which friend's influence will help me shine brighter, and which influence will dim my light?"*

Question : What influence do your friends have on you, and what influence do you have on them?

Heart-work: Choose one way today to have a positive influence on your friends. Practice it and later reflect it upon.