

Our Young Humanitarian (Class Activity)

Dear Teacher,

Our incursion has explored with the students the notion that we each come from different parts of the planet with different backgrounds that make us unique. But our commonality is our humanity and that we have the same needs as each other. As human beings, we each deserve acceptance of our diversity and should evaluate ways in which we can make a difference as individuals by behaving in ways that strengthen our communities.

This poster is designed be used by your classroom for the students to identify what values a young humanitarian embodies and what actions a young humanitarian takes.

Students can reflect on qualities that they would want in a friend and the types of things that kind people do.

You can print the poster as an A4 or A5 resource, and as a class, students can write or draw their responses on the poster and display it in the classroom to be referred to throughout the year.

These definitions of a humanitarianism may be useful to prompt students thinking:

Humanitarian assistance: The aid and action designed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain and protect human dignity during and in the aftermath of man-made crises and natural disasters, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations.

Humanitarian citizen: Someone who takes action to help prevent or ease suffering. This can mean doing whatever they can personally, but might also require them to find someone else who can help – for example, by calling the emergency services.

Humanitarian principle: To prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Humanitarian action: Action taken with the objective of saving lives, alleviating suffering and maintaining human dignity during and after human-induced crises and natural disasters, as well as action to prevent and prepare for them.

Regards,

Alison Cook

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