

Teach Your Youth To Be A Humanitarian

Message to Youth:

Accepting people who have different beliefs or people who are from different cultures is part of being a mature person.

Character-Building Parenting & Mentoring Activities

1. When you catch your youth standing up for what is right—for instance, voicing support for the underdog, getting rid of hate music, or refusing to give into peer pressure—write a note communicating your appreciation and pride, or use some other way of saying thank you that will mean a lot to your youth.
2. Discuss the following quote with your youth: *“The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority.”*
3. A humanitarian attitude comes from understanding other people and cultures. Learn more about others by eating at a restaurant that serves food from another culture, visiting a cultural heritage museum, or attending a performance given by an ethnic group.
4. Talk with your youth about who she would name “Humanitarian of the Year.” It could be someone famous, or a friend or family member. Have her explain her choice.
5. Check out your own attitudes. Are there messages that your youth picks up from what you say and do? Does your youth see you as a humanitarian?

Recommended Book: *Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues*, Harriette Robinet





Humanitarian

Humanitarians believe that all people deserve respect and dignity.

AUGUST

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Teach Your Students To Be Humanitarians

Teacher Lesson Plan

Literature/Writing

A humanitarian attitude is part of responsible citizenship. Discuss the attributes of a humanitarian: respect for the rights and dignity of others, concern for violations of human rights, and discrimination on the basis of features such as skin color, religion, ancestry, economic status, or place of birth. Have students write about some of the things they would like to do to show more humanity to others.

Research

Help your students research the “rescuers” who saved the lives of people who faced death in the Holocaust. Go to fcit.usf.edu and click “A Teacher’s Guide to the Holocaust,” then “People” from the left hand column, then “Rescuers.” You will find descriptions of daring rescues. Lead a class discussion on the courage it must have taken to stand up against the inhumanity of that day.

Media/Computer

Have students search the internet for examples of humanitarian organizations, for instance: *CARE*, *Mercy Corps*, *The Red Cross*, or *Doctors without Borders*. Discuss some of the criteria people should use if they are thinking about donating money to these organizations, such as how much money actually goes to the people in need, or if there is a hidden political agenda.

Social Studies

Talk with students about “Mix it Up Day” (www.mixitup.org). Discuss how the class can sponsor a “Mix it Up” event for themselves or for the entire school, then carry it out.

Math/Science

Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft®, is the wealthiest man in the world. He is giving up his job as the head of his company, however, to devote more time to humanitarian activities. Have your students research the difference he is making in the health of people in less developed countries by going to www.gatesfoundation.org and clicking “Global Health.”

Arts

As our understanding of other cultures grows, the more we know about them. Explore some of the artistic expressions of different cultures through art books in the library or searching on-line for “art” and the name of a country you want your students to learn more about. Share the examples and discuss what might influence the way people represent their cultures.



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Additional Recommended Resources

Try these additional movies and books that are developmentally appropriate for your grade level. These additional movies and books have been researched and chosen to reinforce the monthly character trait. Preview movies and books prior to using.



The movie *Gandhi* is the historical account of the man who went from being a lawyer to a leader who changed the world. Watch it with your youth and talk about some of the things Gandhi did that you agree with and anything he did that you disagree with. How did his actions help people in need?



Hotel Rwanda: This movie is based on the murder of over one million people in three months. In the middle of this horrible time, one brave man saves thousands by giving them shelter in a hotel he manages. It does have some strong images, but clearly illustrates the needs of millions of people.



See if you can find *Hearts of Humanity* in the video store. It was made in 1932 (that should be interesting) and stars Jean Hersholt as a Jewish antiques dealer who adopts the son of an Irish cop after he's accidentally shot. Jean Hersholt was a hollywood actor known for his humanity. In the 1950's, the Academy Awards started giving The Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award in his honor.



Book of the Month: *Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues* by Harriette Robinet:

This book about prejudice and injustice will stress the importance of tolerance and humanity.



Go and Come Back by Joan Abelow: A native girl in the Amazonian jungle opens our eyes to cultural differences as she describes what "normal life" means to her.



Thank You, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.! by Eleanor Tate: This profile shows what being a humanitarian is all about.