

# Character Action Media

## The Art of Caring

### Lesson Goals

- Help students appreciate how simple gestures (actions) can be powerful and wise in caring for others and making a significant difference in the lives of others
- Encourage students to identify and affirm goodness within their own community
- Encourage students to make connections (solidarity) and spend time outside of their own community to identify and affirm goodness within other communities
- Encourage students to consider how to beautify their own and someone else's community
- Help students to appreciate the power of social media in generating support for projects that care for others

### Primary Virtues

- Caring: to help others; a caring person tries to understand another person's situation (empathy), desires to help others (compassion), and then acts in helping others (generosity)
- Solidarity: being present with others, unity from a shared common purpose and / or interest; active loyalty within a group; mutual support within a group
- Wisdom: ability to apply knowledge, experience, understanding in ways that are effective and good; the ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting

### Secondary Virtues

- Compassion: feeling of sympathy for the distress of others, with the desire to help
- Empathy: trying to understand another person's situation, entering into the feeling or spirit of others and imagining yourself in another person's situation.
- Generosity: giving freely of our own possessions, time and/or talent

### Leader Statements and Film Clips (this lesson has three short film clips)

**Leader Introduction:** Today we are going to experience stories from around the world that show us the power of words and of art – their power to inspire us, to create solidarity, and as a way to express our care for others. These stories also show us how the virtues are nearly universal in their impact on ourselves and on others, across place, time and cultures. So let's begin with a project called "Share the Word".

<https://outsiderskrew.com/support/> *Share the Word Project*

**Leader Transition:** The second video focuses on the Share the Word project in Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya in East Africa, and how the project was used in one neighborhood and school

<https://outsiderskrew.com/videos/> *Share the Word Project* Please scroll down to the Nairobi video - start from 6:10 and end at 10:00

**Leader Transition:** Now let's go to America and see the power of words and art in expressing kindness to sick children and their families.

<https://vimeo.com/98772874> *Peach's Neet Feet*

**Leader Summary:** What an incredible story of caring and the power of art in bringing joy to sick children and their families. Let's read through the virtues that are part of this story and the Share the Word project, and then have a discussion.

### Discussion Question Options

Relevant virtues and their definitions are included within the online lesson as a separate document. (discussion prompts / answers are in parentheses if needed)

1. Let's talk about some of the virtues highlighted in these two stories. How do the artists in Share the Word and in Peach's Neet Feet live out each virtue?
  - Caring
  - Solidarity (Steiner in Neet Feet takes the time to learn each child's interest and when possible delivers the shoes to the children. The Share the Word Artists paint with the people in each community, play sports with them, share meals and then introduce people from other communities by attracting them through the art and their social media efforts.)
  - Wisdom (the artists figured out how they can use art to effectively demonstrate their care for others and to affirm the goodness within others)
2. The artists in Share the Word and Peach's Neet Feet show great generosity while completing their work. What are they "giving freely?" (They are giving of their time and artistic talent to connect and care for people in different communities.)
3. Do you think the artists in today's stories are receiving something of value other than money?
4. Can you share an example of a time you or someone you know made a small gesture, an action or a statement, that made a big difference to someone?
5. The artists in the Share the Word project paint inspiring words in an artistic form that creates physical beauty within communities and affirms their goodness. These artists did this in poor communities but it can be done in any community. How could we do this within our community? Would a project like Share the Word positively impact our community? If yes, how exactly could we carry this project out? The same questions can be addressed for your school. (This can also be used as an extended team activity below.)
6. The artists in the Share the Word project invite members of the community to come up with a word that means the most to them and / or to their community to be painted on their home. What are some of the words the people decided on? (Write these on the board.)

What do these words have in common? (most are virtues)

Why do you think people around the world often state a virtue as the word most important to them? (They are powerful and they are important across place and cultures in improving lives of individuals and communities.)

7. **(This question is also a good group activity.)** What word would you choose if the Share the Word project were occurring in your community or school?

Ask students to write their words as a list on the board or to place them within an image, or another larger bubble word that you create on the board or a large sheet of paper. Ask each student to state why they chose their word and what it means to them after they write it

8. Outside of art how can we affirm goodness within our community, among our friends and teammates and within our family? (complimenting others when they do something good, sharing the stories of others doing good deeds, doing good deeds)
9. In “Peach’s Neet Feet,” Steiner worked to collect donated shoes to paint for sick children. What other ideas can we come up with to express caring and bring joy to sick children or elderly people within our community?

### Journal Writing Options

1. If you were asked for 3 words that reflect your school or community, what would they be? List them and explain why you chose them. Next list 3 words that you would like your community to better live out that would improve your community, and explain why. Some of these 3 can be part of the first 3 but you want your community to focus more on them.
2. If the Share the Word project came to your home what word would you choose to paint? Please explain why you would choose that word, what it means for you, your family and community.

### Extended Activities Options

1. Bring Share the Word to your community – the artists paint inspiring words in an artistic form that creates physical beauty within communities and affirms their goodness. These artists did this in poor communities but it can be done in any community. How and where could we carry out this project within our neighborhood or school? (This can be done within teams and then each team presents to the group as a whole, or as a larger group.)
2. In “Peach’s Neet Feet,” Steiner worked to collect donated shoes to paint for sick children. What other ideas can we come up with to express caring and to bring joy to sick children or elderly people within our community?

### Other Resources

Share the Word Web Site

<https://outsiderskrew.com/share-the-word-project/>

Peach’s Neet Feet Web site

<https://www.peachsneetfeet.com/>

# Character Action Media

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