

Act of Compassion

Encourage students to show compassion for those who are struggling.

What You Need

- ❑ A Map into the World by Kao Kalia Yang
- ❑ Drawing paper and supplies for students

Learning Goals

- Understand the meaning of compassion
- Practice showing compassion for someone who needs it

Key Questions

- What is compassion?
- How can I act with compassion when I see someone who is struggling?

Talk about It

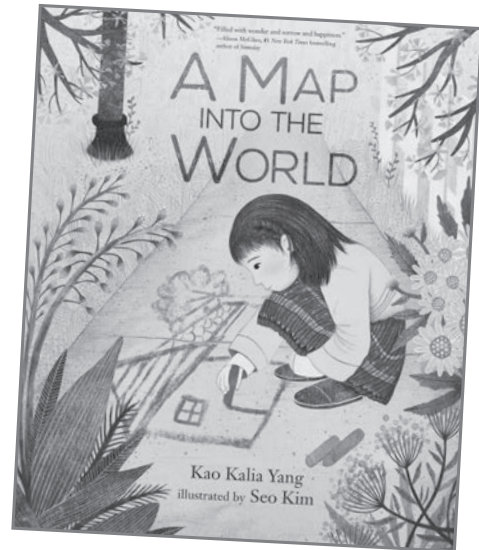
Tell students you are going to read a book about showing compassion. *Compassion is caring and showing concern for others who are suffering. Feeling compassion makes us want to do something to ease the suffering of others.*

Read aloud the book *A Map into the World* by Kao Kalia Yang.

Think about It

Reflect on the main character's act of compassion. Ask students to answer the following questions:

- Who did the main character of the book, Paj Ntaub, show compassion for?
- Why did Paj Ntaub feel compassion for her neighbor Bob?
- What action did Paj Ntaub take to ease the suffering of her neighbor Bob?



Tip for Teachers

The copyright page of *A Map into the World* includes a small Hmong pronunciation guide.

Try It

Have students practice compassion with this activity inspired by *A Map into the World*.

1. Give each student a sheet of drawing paper and drawing supplies.
2. Recall how Paj Ntaub drew pictures of the things she saw around her home, such as plants, leaves, her brothers, an airplane, and snowflakes. She called this a “map into the world.”
3. Tell students to create maps into their worlds. Draw items that they often see that have become part of their worlds.
4. Instruct students to save the maps they create. Next time they encounter someone who is struggling or suffering, give this person their map as an act of compassion.

Notes

Helpful Resources

The Compassion Project

thecompassionproject.com/

What Is Compassion?

www.learningforjustice.org/classroom-resources/lessons/what-is-compassion