

## Empathy Element 7: Rice Poem Activities

<b>Poetry, Geography and Math</b>	<b>Rice Poem Activities</b>
<b>Grade Level:</b> High School <b>Time</b> 1 ½ hours <b>Resources:</b> Poetry videos Maps Paper and pencil or pen	<b>Teachers or Self-Guided Learners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read the introduction and the poems.</li><li>• Watch the videos.</li><li>• Study the map.</li><li>• Solve the math equations and thought questions.</li><li>• Write a poem.</li></ul>

### Interpreting Poetry

The following poems describe times endured during a pandemic. Listen to the video of the reading of the poems. Discuss the meaning of the poems in class or with a family member.

1. How does the first writer's name use humor to link her message to the properties of rice?
2. What do you think the poets meant by the following phrases?

*Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.* (in the second poem)

*Only what we give away enriches us from day to day.* (in the first poem)

3. Read the poems again and determine how the each one describes empathy's role in the transformation of the people.

## Populations of Producers

More than half of the world's population consumes rice. See whether you can find the leading producers of rice on the map, under the heading "It's Nice to Share Rice." Consider the importance of these countries. If the rice growers show empathy for those with less food, they most likely export rice beyond their borders.

## Feed Your Imagination

Write your own poem about empathy based on the poems and/or the math equations.



## **The Gift of Sharing**

The more you give,  
The more you get,  
The more you laugh,  
The less you worry,  
The more you do unselfishly,  
The more of everything you share,  
The more you will always have to share,  
The more you will always have to spare,  
The more you love,  
The more you will find,  
That life is good,  
And friends are kind,  
For only what we give away,  
Enriches us from day to day.

By: Helen S. Rice

## **In the Time of Pandemic**

In the Time of Pandemic

And the people stayed home.

And they read books, and listened to the public health experts, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.

And they listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.

Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

By: Kitty O'Meara

## **Look at Me**

Look at me!  
My heart is pure

Look at me!  
There is something special  
And I want to share

Is it empathy?  
I guess it is empathy

I can feel the pains of the wind  
I can feel the sorrows of the birds  
I can even feel the worries of the globe

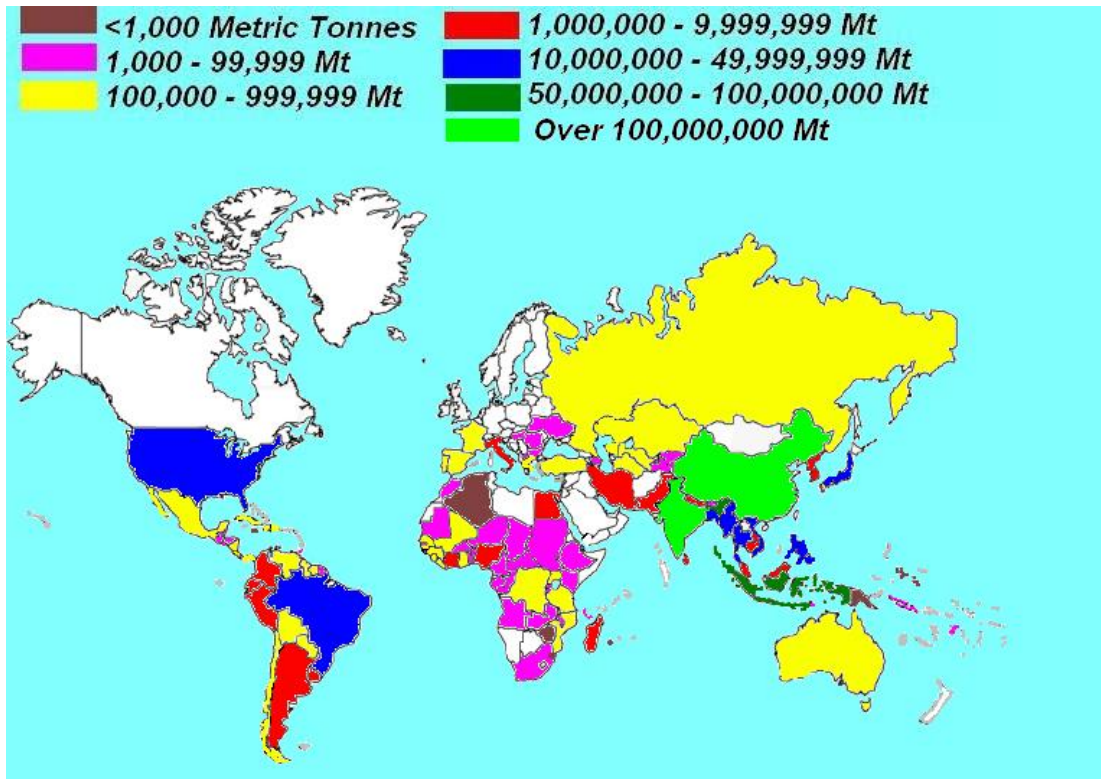
If Empathy were a disease, then,  
I'm willing to be infested by it.

Look at me!  
I am eaten up with the disease of empathy  
It is okay!  
I love it

I will share  
And I will be the best to humanity

Look at me!  
I am strong!

By: Rita Nuahn



## Statistics: It's Nice to Share Rice

Find your country or region on the map. How much rice does it produce in a year?

Do you know whether your country exports or imports rice? Why or why not? What growing conditions are needed to grow rice, based on what you know about the climates represented on this map?

Do people eat rice where you live? Name three countries that grow no rice.

Do you think the world community shows empathy, to make sure everyone has rice, even if they cannot grow rice?

How many metric tonnes of rice does Africa grow?

How many metric tonnes does India grow?

How many metric tonnes does China grow?

How many tones do North and South America grow, together?