

Element 3: Storytell It – Seeing Others as Family

Literature, Storytelling	Empathy Element 3: Seeing Others as Family
<p>Grade Level: Middle and High School</p> <p>Time: 40 minutes</p> <p>Resources: Video about sharing Story “The Good Man” Pencil and Paper</p>	<p>Teachers or Self-Guided Learners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• View a video and discuss it with family members.• Imagine themselves in the role of those in the video.• If no video is available, read the story, “The Good Man,” and respond to the questions.• Write the follow-up scene



Storytelling – Seeing Others as Family

Think about the empathy you feel when you see others as members of your own human family. Must a storyteller feel empathy for others to express the pangs of physical need and to show emotional responses—to convey weariness, hunger, worry, satisfaction, gratitude, and joy? Without feeling what others feel, every writer and filmmaker would have only one story to tell—an autobiography! Empathy, then, becomes a powerful tool in literature and much more essential tool in life.

Watch the Empathy video with a story about sharing.

Put yourself in the story of someone called upon to give a helping hand to others. If the scenario were real, how would your empathetic skill help save lives?

Discuss with a family member how the recording relates to helping others through troubled and hard times.

Read the story by Saah Millimono, a writer from Liberia. Reflect on these questions:

- Compare and contrast the two main characters in the story. How were they alike? How were they different?
- Why did the food seller compare the woman to a broomstick?
- How did people react to the businessman?
- If he earned respect by working hard to succeed, what action did he take that earned *more* respect?
- How did this action change *him*? How did it change the woman he helped?
- Do you think the woman was his real mother or only reminded him of his mother because we are all one human family?

Write a next chapter for the story, telling happened two days later as a result of the empathic act of the man.