

Humanity Project: “Glimpses of Kindness”

A Photo & Art Competition

Guide to Introducing the Competition to schools and other groups

Outline

This guide sets out what you need to prepare before you visit a school or meet with a group. It suggests some ways of introducing the Competition and exploring the theme “Glimpses of Kindness”. It is designed so that everyone will introduce and explain the basics of the Competition in much the same way.

You don't have to make the presentation alone. It's fine to work together with another person.

Before you visit

Become familiar with the wealth of information on the Humanity Project website - www.humanityproject.net - where a whole section is devoted to the Competition. It gives details of the Competition's objectives and rules as well as how to enter, including on line.

Set up an appointment with the school, particular class, club or group.

Make sure you establish a **Contact Person**. Ideally this individual will also agree to continue as the Contact Person for the Competition after you have made the presentation. There's also a special e-mail address if there are any questions about the competition - competitions@humanityproject.net

Once you have set up an appointment, please inform the **Competition Co-ordinator**, Cynthia Benz, and afterwards please feed back how it went.

(Tel: 01628 789197 & e-mail competitions@humanityproject.net)

Read through **Introducing the Competition** (see below) before you make a visit. Plan your own script appropriately.

When you make your visit, take along a few copies of the **Competition Poster**, the **Rules**, and the **Entry Form** to show to people and leave with the Contact Person to display. Make sure you have enough **Follow-up Slips** to hand out to everyone in the group and some extra for people to pass on to friends and family who might be interested.

Introducing the Competition by:

- exploring the theme “Glimpses of Kindness”
- outlining how the competition is being run
- highlighting the **‘Glimpses of Kindness’ Exhibition(s)**
- encouraging people to look at the full information on the website.

Use what follows in the **Suggested Script** as it is or as a basis for your own presentation. There is plenty of scope for you to tailor it to different age and interest groups. Simplify or expand it to suit the school or group you are visiting. Personalise it so you feel at ease with what you say and let it reflect your own style of presentation.

Do read through your finished script out loud at least once before meeting the school/group so that you feel relaxed and clear about what you are presenting and how you put it across.

A few tips about making presentations:

timing - check with the Contact Person how much time you have to make the presentation. Your time slot might be restricted, especially if it's a school assembly.

involvement - it's great to involve children, students, and other people in thinking and talking about the topic BUT it needs careful handling so that it doesn't go on too long, and gives everyone wanting to say something a chance to do so. Remember to listen well and thank people for contributing by at least making a nod.

not prescriptive - open up ideas as much as possible. It's important not to dismiss ideas or close down discussion on differing views of the topic. You might want to add that, “These aren't the only examples - we hope you'll think of lots more we haven't mentioned.”

pauses - let them happen. And move on tactfully.

Suggested Script

“Hello I’m X/we are X & Y and I’m/we’re here to introduce you to a competition called **‘Glimpses of Kindness’**. It is a Photo and Art competition which I am/we are here to invite you to enter.

“The competition is being run by the Humanity Project, a charity that is compiling a series of exhibitions and educational resources that highlight what humanity and compassion can achieve for the well-being of society and provide contrasts of what happens when there is inhumanity and a lack of compassion. The Humanity Project is also developing activities that relate to how we live and work together effectively and in peace. There’s a focus on core values such as respect, worth, value, justice, equality, truth, compassion, and personal responsibility.

At any one time a large number of people are involved in the Humanity Project. We donate our time and skills to the project on a voluntary basis. Certainly by working together we achieve more. If you’d like to join us on a short or long term basis, do contact us.

“The Competition challenges you to capture a “glimpse of kindness” you have discovered in your area/neighbourhood - how? By taking a photograph or creating a piece of artwork: a picture, painting, collage, or sculpture, for example.

“There will be separate categories for 3 different age groups: 10years old and under; 11-17 year olds; and over 18 years of age. Awards will be given in each category.

Entry to the Competition is FREE - and you may enter more than once, up to 5 times.

Please check the rules and entry details on the website www.humanityproject.net or look at the flier.

“After the Competition ends, there will be at least one public exhibition, to which all of you will be welcomed. It’ll be a great opportunity to see how other people have explored what kindness means to them. Hopefully you will have your own work on show.

“We are introducing the Competition to lots of schools, and all sorts of clubs and groups. We’ll be meeting other people in the area as well as advertising it in some of the local papers, on local radio and perhaps on TV. It’s going to be a real challenge to come up with your own personal glimpse of how you see or understand kindness in real life.

“So let’s spend a minute or two thinking about the title of the Competition: Glimpses of Kindness.

There are 2 important words - glimpse and kindness.

- Let’s start with the word **‘glimpse’**.

What does that mean?

What sort of look is it?

When we glimpse something, we get an idea, an impression about it. It’s the way that we happen to see it. Other people will glimpse it differently.

- Now the word **‘kindness’**.

What is kindness?

(possible activity: “Turn to the person next to you and share with him/her what you think kindness is.”)

How are people kind to each other?

Can you give us some examples of what people do when they are being kind?

Have you met any people who are kind?

Has anyone been kind to you?

How does it make you feel when other people are kind to you?

How do you feel when you see other people receiving kindness?

What sort of kindnesses have you seen?

Do you think you are a kind person?

If you caught a glimpse of kindness – what do you think that might be or might look like?

How do you know people are being kind?

(If faced with a very quiet group, you may want to throw out a few suggestions along the following lines.

“There are many ways of being kind to other people. For example, there are lots of people who care for others and act to help other

people in this society. It could be a one-to-one act of kindness, or it could be one group caring for another group. Sometimes people are kind and caring to others who live a long way away and who they can't be in touch with directly. It is possible to be kind to people we don't know personally and will never meet by collecting money to help or things to send to them. It could be someone who has done something kind for you and your photo or artwork could be your way of showing appreciation.)

“But your challenge in this competition will be how to capture a glimpse of kindness. Keep your eyes open and look closely at what is going on among people around you. Try and discover a situation where a person or people show what you think kindness is all about. The judges will be looking for that special moment you have captured and its impact as well as the artistic merit of the piece you have created. You will have to decide whether you want to use a camera, a paint brush, clay, paper or other materials.

“So now over to you with our challenge. Remember there is no right or wrong answer as to what a “glimpse of kindness” is. It's a real adventure into the unknown. You get to choose what you think kindness is and what it means to you. Your “glimpse of kindness” is really important. So have fun thinking about it, planning it and choosing your own way of capturing it - whatever inspires you.

“I think it's going to be really exciting to visit the exhibition and see the wide variety of ways in which people have captured kindness in our localities. I bet we'll be surprised by the different ideas we all have of what kindness is and how many ways there are for people to show kindness to others. Anyone can enter, so do talk about it with your friends and family and encourage them to enter, too.

“I'm going to hand out a follow-up slip with the website details for the Competition where you can find details of the Rules and an Entry form. Or you can talk to (name), who is the Contact Person for the Competition here. S/he will help you with any information you need.

“Two important things to remember: only send in a digital photo of your entry. If you are shortlisted, the judges will want to see the real thing so keep your picture, painting, collage, or sculpture very safe. The second important thing is to submit your entry in good time!

“I’m/We’re looking forward to seeing the photos, pictures, and sculptures you have created in the Competition Exhibition early next year. The exhibition will be a celebration of the humanity of local people and you can help to create this picture.

“Any questions?”

NB

You might wish or be invited to offer a follow up session centred around the photography, art and craft work produced with time to talk about what it was like to create a glimpse of kindness and what the experience has meant to participants.

Follow up slip

Glimpses of Kindness

A photo/art competition run by the Humanity Project.

Start Date: 1st October 2011 Final entries: 31st December 2011

Website for competition rules and entry forms:
www.humanityproject.net

Your contact person in this school/group is:

Please make sure you have written permission of those photographed.