

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Assignment A  
Grades 2-3

# Everyday Heroes



1. Do the activities listed in the Assignments box.
2. Type in your work in the boxes on this page.

Assignments	Due Date
[ Teachers, tell students which assignments to do here ]	

## Assignment 1: Nominate an Everyday Hero!

1. **Think** about the words “everyday hero.” Talk to a family member about what you think those words mean.

2. **Write** down a list of at least five things that you think would show that a classmate is an everyday hero. Here are a few ideas to get you started: helpful, a good partner, shares what they know.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

3. **Write** down ideas of how you can be an Everyday Hero to your classmates or family.

4. **Think** about the students in your class. Are any of them Everyday Heroes? Fill out the **nomination form** to explain why your classmate is an everyday hero. →

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### Assignment 2: Use Your Words to Be an Everyday Hero!

1. **Read** the following definition with a family member and discuss what it means.

Poverty: the condition of not having enough money or goods to meet basic human needs such as food, shelter, and clothing.

2. **Work** with a family member to read about children living in poverty around the world. →

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3. **Discuss** the following questions to think deeply about the reading:

- What did the stories show? What situations were unfair?
- Have you ever seen, heard about, or experienced injustice (something unfair) related to poverty?
- Did these stories make you feel empathy? (Empathy is when you feel another person's feelings.) Were you able to imagine yourself in that situation?
- What would you want to see changed in your own life and community related to this issue?

4. **Read** the following quote aloud with a family member:

**“When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.”** —Malala Yousafzai, education activist

**Discuss** what you think the quote means.

5. **Use** what you learned about poverty to write a **persuasive letter** to a local elected official about child poverty. Be sure to use the Facts Bank on the sheet to include important facts in your letter. →

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### Assignment 3: How You Can Help Fight Poverty

1. **Read** the first paragraph of the reading passage. →

- Find a sentence that shows what the reading passage will be about.

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2. **Read** the rest of the text. If you find words you don't know, use clues around the word to figure out the meaning. Define the following words:

- **poverty** (in paragraph 1)

- **illiteracy** (illiteracy section title)

- **nutritious** (in sickness section)

**3. Write down** the main idea of the text.

**4. Make** a list of details that support the main idea of the text.

**5. Write** or draw a **journal entry** that shows the point of view of a child who is experiencing one of the problems described in the reading passage.

## Assignment 4: Make a Difference with Comedy

1. **Discuss** these two words and their definitions with a family member:

- puns: jokes based on words that have more than one meaning (like run) or words that sound the same (like I and eye)
- hyperbole: an exaggeration

2. **Read (or listen to)** a few jokes. →

Can you find the setup of a joke and its punch line?

Example:

- Setup: Why was six afraid of seven?
- Punch line: Because seven eight nine!

**TIP:** Sometimes you have to say a joke out loud to understand its meaning. This joke has a pun. The number eight and the word ate sound the same.

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3. **Write** your own jokes using the activity sheet. →

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4. **Practice telling your joke.** Try telling your joke to a family member, first without expression, then with expression. Which joke presentation is better?

# Nominate an Everyday Hero!

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(first and last name)

This person deserves to be the Classroom Everyday Hero because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Everyday Hero qualities this person displays include \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by (optional): \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
for showing empathy and kindness to other children

Teacher's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Clean Water in Nepal

When people have clean water, they are healthier.

**W**hat would life be like if you didn't have clean water to drink? Thirteen-year-old Manita\* knows—and she's seen how clean water makes life better.

Manita lives in the village of Ambote in Nepal. A few years ago, before they had clean water, life was very different. Families had to get water from streams high up in the mountains. But climbing there was really hard. Carrying the heavy water was a lot of work. Even worse, the water outside wasn't protected from germs. Almost everyone in the community got sick often, just from drinking the water!

In fact, 700 people had to go to the local health clinic each month in 2010. But not anymore. Today, only about 65 people visit the health clinic each month—a huge difference. How did this happen? Ordinary people around the world raised money to build a new water system!

Here's how the new water system works. Giant pipes capture the natural spring water high up on the mountain. Gravity pushes the water down to faucet stands located throughout the community.

Instead of having to climb and search for water to carry home, now families can turn on a faucet right next to their homes. And



because the water is protected from germs, the health of the community has been transformed for the better.

"Before the water project came in, we had more sick people in the village," Manita shared.

For kids like Manita, better health means being able to go to school. Now she can study math, science, English, and Nepali with other 9th graders. That means Manita can dream bigger!

"I want to be a scientist," Manita declared. "I want to make medicines to cure the ill." With clean water and an education, Manita can work on keeping her community healthy for years to come!

*\* Name has been changed to protect privacy.*

# Hunger in Missouri

## Filling backpacks and hungry tummies

One in six American children aren't sure where they will find their next meal. Kitiana, a 10-year-old from Springfield, Missouri, is one of the children who face hunger.

"When I was really young, I walked in the kitchen thinking, 'What's for breakfast?' But there was nothing in the cabinets, and I thought, 'Oh no,'" remembers Kitiana. "My mother caught me digging in the cabinets and said, 'Sorry, we can't have anything for breakfast, lunch, or dinner today.' So we just snacked a little. It made me feel so hungry. It felt pretty bad."

Now Kitiana and her brother, Thomas, a first-grader, live with their grandma. Their grandmother used to work, but had to stop after adopting her grandchildren. Kitiana and her brother take food home every week through the Backpack Program.

The Backpack Program provides hungry children with backpacks full of nutritious and easy-to-prepare food on Friday afternoons so they have food to eat throughout the weekend. During the week, children can get food at school.

The Backpack Program is one way that local food banks are helping to keep children safe from hunger. A food bank



is an organization that gives free food to people who need it.

"My favorite thing in the backpack is the spaghetti and chocolate milk," Kitiana says. "It makes me feel fantastic to bring the backpack home!"

Kitiana explains that because her grandmother sometimes gets sick and can't cook a lot of food, she has the children grab something from their backpacks to help when they're hungry.

"I'm glad the Backpack Program is here, because we have enough now, but one day we could run out of money and run out of food, but at least we'll have things from our bags."

# A Path to Education in Bhutan

Education creates possibilities for the future.

Every morning, when Pema\* was four, he would walk through fields of rice and corn in the country of Bhutan.

But unlike the rest of his family, Pema would keep going—past the fields that his relatives worked for generations. After 15 minutes climbing the foothills of the Himalayan mountains, he'd reach his destination: an old building that has been turned into a preschool.

Pema's district is one of the poorest in the country. It's also *remote*, which means it's far away from where other people live, so it's difficult to connect children to schools. Many children fall behind in reading, writing, and math before finishing first grade.

To help, organizations trained preschool teachers throughout Bhutan to help children like Pema learn and stretch their imaginations.

"I like all the learning corners," Pema said about his preschool. His favorite corner was pretend play. There, he could pretend to be a farmer like his parents, shop at the market, work at the local health center, or cook a Bhutanese meal.



"Before the training, pretend play here was playing with dolls," the teacher explained. "Now we include community elements, like the farming tools. The children take interest because they have seen their parents using these and doing this."

But there's nothing imaginary about the skills Pema developed. His mother, Jamba, said, "Compared to his siblings, Pema is starting much earlier. He knows his ABCs and is starting to read." This was important preparation for elementary school.

Although Jamba is unable to read or write, she knows that once a path for education is created, the possibilities are endless.

\* Name has been changed to protect privacy.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



# Use Words to Be an Everyday Hero!

You can help other kids by writing a letter to your elected officials asking them to help end child poverty.

## FACTS BANK



1 in every 6 children live in poverty in the U.S. That's 12 million children.



Poverty can make it hard to get an education.



Poverty can make it hard for kids to stay healthy.

DEAR \_\_\_\_\_,



Say who you are and why you are writing.



Explain how the elected official can help.



Thank the elected official for their time.



SINCERELY, \_\_\_\_\_

# How You Can Help Fight Poverty

There are millions of kids in the U.S. and around the world who are living in *poverty* and do not have what they need to feel safe, stay healthy, and learn. Poverty is a big problem made up of smaller ones that need solutions. Follow the steps below to help other kids like you!



## Fight Illiteracy

**Problem:** Some kids don't have books at home and are not able to go to preschool, so it can be harder for them to learn how to read.

**Solution:** Write a letter to your town government. Ask them to make sure all kids can have books and early education. If you have books at home, you could pick some to donate.



## Fight Sickness

**Problem:** Many families aren't able to visit the doctor or get medicine. That makes it hard for kids to stay healthy.

**Solution:** You can help keep yourself and other kids from getting sick by washing your hands so germs don't spread. Write to your principal asking for *nutritious* food options at school to help keep kids healthy.



## Fight Homelessness

**Problem:** When kids don't have a home to go to after school, it is hard for them to feel safe and cared for. They are also less likely to have all the supplies they need for class.

**Solution:** Make all students feel safe by always being kind. If your family is able to, volunteer at a homeless shelter to help those in need.



## Fight Hunger

**Problem:** One in five U.S. children don't have enough nutritious food to eat that can help them stay healthy. That can make it hard to pay attention in school.

**Solution:** You could host a canned food drive, then deliver the donations to a local food pantry that feeds hungry kids and families.

# JOKE LIST

## **Borrow One of These or Write Your Own!**

**How many tickles does it take to make a squid laugh?**

Ten-tickles!

**What do you call a nosy pepper?**

Jalapeño Business.

**Why did the carpenter go to the beauty salon?**

He needed his nails done!

**Where do roses sleep at night?**

In their flowerbed!

**Why are eyeshadow, lipstick and mascara never mad at each other?**

Because they always make-up!

**Why was the shoe bad at gymnastics?**

She was a flip-flop!

**Which band never turns left or right?**

One Direction!

**What do ponies do when they fall in love?**

They get mare-eed!



**What should you do if you bite off more than you can chew?**

Spit it out!

**Why wouldn't the hermit crab give the mollusk a ride in his shell?**

Because he didn't want to pull a mussel!

**How do you cut a wave in half?**

Use a sea saw.

**Why did the genie get mad?**

Because he was rubbed the wrong way!

**What flower is the best kisser?**

Tulips!

**What is a good time to go to the dentist?**

Tooth-Hurty

**What did the balloon say to the pin?**

Hi, Buster!

**What do aliens like in their hot chocolate?**

Martian-mallows.

**What did one volcano say to the other volcano?**

I lava you.

**Where do horses live?**

In neigh-borhoods





**Why did the lawyer show up in his underwear?**

He forgot his lawsuit!

**How do trees get onto the Internet?**

They log on!

**How does the ocean say hello?**

It waves.

**What do ghosts use to wash their hair?**

Sham-BOO!

**Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?**

Then it would be a foot.

**What did the left eye say to the right eye?**

Between you and me, something smells!

**Why can't you tell a joke standing on ice?**

Because it might crack up!

**If seagulls fly over the sea, what flies over the bay?**

Bagels.

**What day do chickens hate most?**

Fry-days!

**What do you call a bear with no teeth?**

A gummy bear.





**What do you give a lemon in distress?**

Lemonade!

**What does a weiner dog say when he crosses the finish line?**

I'm a weiner!

**What do you call a bee that's having a bad hair day?**

A Frisbee.

**What's a ballerina's favorite type of bread?**

A bun!

**What is the corn's favorite music?**

Pop!

**What time of year do people get injured the most?**

In the Fall!

**Why was the politician out of breath?**

He was running for office!

**What is rain's favorite accessory?**

A rainbow!

**Why can't Monday lift Saturday?**

It's a weak day!

**Why did the quarterback take the hardest classes?**

Because he knew he would pass!



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# Make a Difference With Comedy

Plan out your own jokes, then answer the question about why you want to use jokes and comedy to help others.

## 1. Jot Down Ideas

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## 2. Write Your Own Joke(s)

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### Types of Jokes

- Puns
- Hyperbole
- Silly situations
- Knock-knock
- (Add any others you can think of!)

### Joke Tip

- Try “backwards planning”: Identify your pun or punch line—then think of a situation that could end that way.

## Make a Difference!

When you tell your jokes, you have people’s attention. You can use that time to talk about other issues that are important to you, like helping other kids just like you.

What facts about child poverty do you want your audience to know?