

Title: Look For the Helpers

In times of crisis, Mr. Rogers says, “look for the helpers”. It’s important that our students find reassurance and hope in that notion during this time while also practicing compassion for the helpers in their own communities.

Lesson Objective: I can identify the “helpers” and express gratitude and kindness

Grades: 6-9

Learning Standards and Skills Addressed:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management

Subject Area Alignment:

- Science or Social Studies

Materials:

- [Fred Rogers Interview Clip](#)
- [ABC News Story](#)
- [Community in Crisis](#) & [Vital Signs Staff](#)

Direct Instruction:

- [Watch this video](#) of Mr. Rogers describing the importance of looking for the helpers in times of disaster.
- **Ask:** *How does this make you feel?*
- Explain to students that while most businesses are shutting down temporarily to slow the spread of COVID-19 and people are told to stay at home, there are still several services and workers continuing to help us all during this time, often putting their own health at risk so we can stay safe.
- **Ask:** *Can you think of some people who are helping during this pandemic?* Brainstorm a list together as a class.

- Highlight medical workers from the list and watch [this news story](#) on nurses traveling from across the country to serve patients in crowded New York City hospitals.
- **Ask:** *What did you learn? What did it mean to you?*
- **Ask:** *Even though we are social distancing and staying at home, what are some ways we can say “thank you” to our helpers or spread some kindness to others during this time?* Generate a list together.

Independent Work:

- Ask students to conduct a search to “look for the helpers” in their own communities and keep a list to submit/share with the class. These may include grocery store clerks, delivery people, dentists, or neighbors showing small acts of kindness.
- Instruct students to find another news story online that shares about “helpers” and post the link in your remote learning discussion board.
- Post the class-generated list of ideas to say “thank you” or spread kindness in your remote learning portal to serve as inspiration. Instruct students to complete one of the ideas (or a new one) and share documentation of their deed on your discussion board by uploading a photo or video. Students may also choose to create a something digitally and post to social media.
- **Share with us on Social Media:** Use #lookforthehelpers when posting to social media and tag @ReadtoLeadGames. We love seeing all the amazing work!
- **Game Extension Option:** This activity corresponds to our series of learning games titled *Community in Crisis* and *Vital Signs* where students take on the role of the boss

in service of the community at large. Register for a free account at readtolead.org and set up your class so your students can play independently and at their own pace. Use our staffing charts from the [Community in Crisis](#) and [Vital Signs](#) games to find other “helpers” we recognize in our own lives.

Collaborate and Reflect:

- This can be done in your next live class meeting or through the discussion board of your remote learning portal.
- Invite students to leave encouraging comments and praise for each other’s documented acts of kindness or “thank you” gestures. Alternatively, have students share during your live meeting and provide positive comments for one another.
- **Stop and Jot:** How did it feel to notice the helpers? What impact has this had on you? How can you continue this practice?
- **Discuss** student’s written reflections.

