

English Reading Comprehension Worksheet 1 - Community Connections Week

Part A — Reading Passage

Every year, the students of Harbour View Secondary School take part in a school-wide project called “Community Connections Week.” The event was created five years ago when teachers noticed that many students were becoming increasingly focused on academic results and personal achievements. While these goals were important, the school believed that students also needed opportunities to understand the world beyond their textbooks.

This year, the theme of the project was “Hidden Heroes.” Students were encouraged to explore the stories of people in Hong Kong who quietly contribute to society without expecting recognition. These included street cleaners, elderly volunteers, paramedics, and even neighbours who regularly help others in small but meaningful ways.

To prepare for the project, students attended a workshop led by a local social worker. She explained that many “hidden heroes” face challenges such as long working hours, low pay, or limited public appreciation. “Yet,” she said, “their work keeps our city running smoothly. Without them, our daily routines would fall apart.” Her words left a strong impression on the students.

During the week, each class selected a group of hidden heroes to interview. One group chose to speak with a team of street cleaners who worked near the school. The students were surprised to learn that the cleaners began their shifts as early as 4 a.m. and often worked in difficult weather conditions. Despite this, the cleaners said they felt proud when they saw the neighbourhood looking clean and safe.

Another class visited an elderly centre where retired volunteers spent their mornings teaching calligraphy, organising games, and chatting with lonely seniors. One volunteer, a 72-year-old man, shared that he had started volunteering after his wife passed away. “Helping others helped me heal,” he said. “It reminds me that I still have something valuable to give.”

At the end of the week, the school held a presentation day. Students displayed posters, videos, and written reflections about the people they had met. Many admitted that they had never thought deeply about the individuals who supported their community. “I used

to walk past cleaners without noticing them,” one student wrote. “Now I realise how important they are.”

The principal concluded the event by reminding students that appreciation should not end with the project. “A strong community is built on kindness,” she said. “When we recognise the efforts of others, we strengthen the connections that hold us together.”

Part B — Vocabulary (Multiple Choice)

1. In paragraph 1, the word “opportunities” is closest in meaning to
 - A. chances
 - B. problems
 - C. instructions
 - D. warnings
2. The phrase “left a strong impression” in paragraph 3 means
 - A. confused the students
 - B. made the students forget
 - C. affected the students deeply
 - D. annoyed the students

Part C — Comprehension (Multiple Choice)

3. Why was “Community Connections Week” created?
 - A. Students needed more homework
 - B. Students were too focused on academic results
 - C. Teachers wanted to reduce school activities
 - D. Parents requested more competitions
4. What did the social worker emphasise during the workshop?

- A. Hidden heroes enjoy fame and attention
 - B. Hidden heroes often face challenges
 - C. Students should become hidden heroes
 - D. The project was unnecessary
5. What surprised the students about the street cleaners?
- A. They worked only on weekends
 - B. They disliked their jobs
 - C. They started work very early
 - D. They were all volunteers
6. What did the elderly volunteer say about helping others?
- A. It made him feel tired
 - B. It helped him recover emotionally
 - C. It was required by the centre
 - D. It was only for young people
7. Which of the following best describes the students' change in attitude?
- A. They became more appreciative of community helpers
 - B. They became less interested in volunteering
 - C. They felt the project was too long
 - D. They preferred studying to meeting people

Part D — Short Response

8. Give one example of a “hidden hero” mentioned in the passage.

9. According to the principal, what helps build a strong community?

Part E — Developing Homeschool Students' Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills (Open-Ended)

10. Do you think schools should organise more activities like “Community Connections Week”? Explain your opinion.

11. What qualities do you think make someone a “hero,” even if they are not famous?

12. If you could interview a hidden hero in your own neighbourhood or homeschool community, who would it be and why?

Answer Key (Suggested Answers)

Part B

1. A

2. C

Part C

3. B

4. B

5. C

6. B

7. A

Part D

8. Examples: street cleaners, elderly volunteers, paramedics, helpful neighbours

9. Kindness and recognising others' efforts

Part E

(Open-ended; accept any reasonable, well-supported answers.)

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