

English 10 Closure Learning Plan March 31- April 3 ANSWER KEYS

Day 1: “Altruism: Why We Risk Our Own Well-Being to Help Others” by Kendra Cherry

1. B. Psychologists are unable to agree if true altruism exists, but they believe several factors could be encouraging people to act in seemingly selfless ways.
2. D. “Do we ever engage in helping others for truly altruistic reasons, or are there hidden benefits to ourselves that guide our altruistic behaviors?” (Paragraph 15)
3. The author doesn’t know the true reasoning behind altruism but thinks it’s an important part of life nonetheless.
4. Possible Answer: The list of explanations emphasizes the variety of ways psychologists explain this behavior.
5. Answers will vary; students should discuss how a person’s ability to be empathetic can affect how altruistic they are. For instance, the author states, “Researchers suggest that people are more likely to engage in altruistic behavior when they feel empathy for the person who is in distress” (Paragraph 13). In other words, if you are able to feel or understand someone’s negative experience, you’re more likely to act to alleviate it. However, this empathy can also cause you to act altruistically for subtly selfish reasons. The author states that being able to feel another person’s distress can also cause you distress, “...so helping the person in trouble helps reduce these negative feelings” (Paragraph 14). While you may be helping someone out of your ability to feel empathy for them, the true motivation of your actions may be to make yourself feel better. In all, our ability to feel or understand another person’s emotions has an impact on our altruistic behavior towards them.

Day 2: “Does Altruism Actually Exist?” by Alice G. Walton

1. C. Babies who are able to recognize examples of unfairness are more likely to act altruistically, proving that there’s a connection between the development of the two.
2. B. “But, the authors argue, the fact that the second part of the study connected the ‘altruistic’ behaviors to the perception of unevenness speaks to the fact that babies ‘evaluate events along morally relevant dimensions.’” (Paragraph 7)
3. A. as a concept that confuses many people because of its apparent selfless nature.
4. D. An understanding of fairness and altruism are connected, but researchers are uncertain to the full extent of their connection.
5. Answers will vary.

Day 3: “A Friend” by Gillian Jones (poem)

Main Idea - answers will vary; students should discuss the meaningfulness and value of friendship as the poet suggests that friendship is like “pure gold,” which is priceless.

Key Details and Summary Chart – answers will vary; for each four lines, students should discuss three key details and a summary.

Day 4: “More Facebook Friends, Fewer Real Ones, Says Cornell Study” by ABC News

1. Answers will vary; students should focus on how a recent Cornell study revealed that despite living in the age of the social network, people nowadays have fewer close friends.
2. D. A person you deeply trust and care about
3. A. “truly close friends” (Paragraph 2)
4. Answers will vary; students should pull from their own experience.
5. Answers will vary; students should pull from their own experience.
6. Answers will vary; students should define a friend by citing evidence from this text, other texts they have read in this packet, their own experience, or other literature, art, or history.

Day 5: “No Man is an Island” by John Donne (poem)

Answers will vary for the Venn diagram; students should note the similarities and differences between the two poems (“A Friend and “No Man is an Island)

1. C. Everyone and everything in the world is connected as part of a larger whole.
2. A. It compares people to land masses, and when one clod is washed away it lessens the continent; this develops the theme of connection between individuals as parts of a whole.
3. Answers will vary; students should discuss how the poet defines friendship using textual evidence from the poem, and how they define friendship using their own experience.
4. Answers will vary; students should address the prompt on how modern society values connection between people and if this is similar to how the poet conceived it in his poem.
5. Answers will vary; students should address the importance of community and what it means to be a part of a community by citing evidence from the text, their personal experiences, or other sources of history and literature.