Survivor Syndrome

Liz Jensen

Pre-reading

2. Vocabulary: Climate collocations.

Which word in the left column corresponds to which word in the right column?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ecological</th>
<th>gases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fossil</td>
<td>balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>green</td>
<td>fumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>climate</td>
<td>footprint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>greenhouse</td>
<td>politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ozone</td>
<td>change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>natural</td>
<td>fuels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carbon</td>
<td>layer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exhaust</td>
<td>levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sea</td>
<td>disasters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Vocabulary: Match definitions and nouns and find the corresponding adjectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A strong feeling of sympathy for people who are suffering and a desire to help them</td>
<td>c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A lack of interest in or reaction to somebody/something</td>
<td>i</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruel behaviour or treatment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The belief that people only do things to help themselves rather than for good or honest reasons</td>
<td>c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The high standard that you expect from a person who is well trained in a certain job</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The fact of caring about the needs and happiness of other people more than your own</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The state of not being involved in something in an emotional/personal way</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The concept of not caring about the possible effects of your words or actions on other people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The fact of not caring about other people’s feelings or sufferings</td>
<td>c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The particular method you use to change something</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Vocabulary: philosophical/abstract concepts relating to attitudes.

a) **ethics** – 1. moral principles that control or influence a person’s behaviour
1. a system of moral principles or rules of behaviour
2. the branch of philosophy that deals with moral principles
b) **aesthetics** – the branch of philosophy which studies the principles of beauty
c) **human** – 1. of or connected with people
2. showing the weakness that is typical of people
3. having the same feelings and emotions as most ordinary people
d) **humane** – showing human kindness towards people or animals by making sure that they do not suffer more than necessary
e) **humanism** – a system of thought that considers solving human problems with the help of reason more important than religious beliefs. It emphasizes the fact that the basic nature of humans is good
f) **humanitarian** – concerned with reducing the suffering and improving the conditions that people live in
g) **humanitarianism** – the act of being humanitarian
h) **humanity** – 1. people in general
2. the state of being a person rather than a god, an animal or a machine
3. the quality of being kind to people or animals by making sure that they do not suffer more than is necessary; the quality of being humane – see d)
i) **the humanities** – the subjects of study that are concerned with the way people think and behave, for example literature, language, history and philosophy
j) **inhumanity** – cruel behaviour or treatment; the fact of not having the usual qualities of kindness and pity: man’s inhumanity to man: the inhumanity of the system.

Go through the list, and for each word, think of a (historical) person who, in your opinion, represents that concept. See if you can agree with others in the class on particular candidates for the various propositions.
Post-reading

LEARNING CHECK

1. Hot chair

Groups of four: One person assumes the role of Dimitri, the others are journalists who interview Dimitri at the party where he receives a prize for “Drowning Boy”. Focus on his motives.

WIDER CONTEXTS

1. Literary context: Reference to the Bible

The Biblical story of the Flood can be found in Genesis (1. Mosebog) chapters 6-9.

2. Literary context: other text by a different author: Robert Burns, “Man was made to mourn”.

Read this poem by Robert Burns and discuss to what extent it reflects the implied message of the story? Be inspired by pre-reading task 4.

“Man was made to mourn” (1784): A Dirge

Many and sharp the num'rous ills
Inwoven with our frame!
More pointed still we make ourselves
Regret, remorse, and shame!

And man, whose heav’n-erected face
The smiles of love adorn,
Man’s inhumanity to man
Makes countless thousands mourn!

Gloser

numerous utallig
frame legeme, skikkelse
pointed skarp, tydelig
regret beklage, fortryde
remorse have samvittighedsna
angre
heav’n-erected rettet op mod himlen, himmelvendt
a’dorn pryde, smykke
mourn sørge

(Re)read Wordsworth’s poem “Composed Upon Westminster Bridge”, p. 217 and note what is said about the Thames and the surrounding attractions. Make comparisons between the two views of London. Use the Venn diagram to illustrate similarities and differences.

4. Literary context: other media: article on global warming.

Do you consider the results of global warming described in “Survivor Syndrome” realistic or exaggerated? Read the following article, and discuss the question again.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/mar/30/india.flooding