

HARNOOR GILL HAS PASSION TO HELP PEOPLE



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2B Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.R.L. 8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies of allusions to other texts.

READABILITY
SCORE: 9.0

VOCABULARY

Passion - a powerful emotion.

Volunteering - to perform or offer to perform a service of one's own free will.

Brush - a light touch in passing.

Bullying - a person who is cruel.

Organization - a unit of people to meet a need or pursue a goal.

Environmental - of or related to the environment.

Founded - to establish or set up.

Immigrant - a person who leaves one country to settle into another.

HERE'S HARNOOR'S STORY!

Harnoor Gill is 16 years old and lives in Georgetown, Canada. He has a **passion** for **volunteering**. Harnoor was born in Hong Kong to Indian parents but has lived in Canada most of his life. Harnoor has been volunteering since he was three years old. His volunteer work began at age three when he started going door-to-door selling cookies to raise money for the Hong Kong Red Cross. While on his first trip to India with his parents, Harnoor came face to face with people in need. He remembers, "[It was my] first **brush** with poverty in the form of a freezing child in the streets during a cold winter that I realized what a difference I could make."

Harnoor stresses that he could not be where he is now without his parents. They have always supported and encouraged his desire to make a difference in the world. This was especially true after he started having problems with **bullying** in elementary school.

Harnoor has spent over 2,000 volunteer hours working with over 20 **organizations**. For him, volunteering seemed to be an excellent way to deal with bullying. Harnoor's **passion** for **environmental** issues began when he volunteered his time to fix up a local park.

In 2012, Harnoor **founded** the Peace Welcome Club in Georgetown. This club promotes volunteer opportunities for newcomer **immigrant** youths such as himself. He wanted to convince all young people that their age should not stand in the way of volunteering.

The Peace Welcome Club has done many things. It has sent more than 10,000 textbooks to local communities. Its volunteers have

Newcomer - one who has recently arrived.

International - of or involving two or more nations.

Journalist - a person who writes for a large audience.

Awareness - having knowledge of.

Accolades - an award or honor.

Significant - something that is meaningful.

Prestigious - having high honor.

Emphasizes - to stress.

Recognition - identifying something.

Determined - decided.

Barrier - something that is in the way.

collected over 2,000 jeans to donate to youth in India. Each month the Club honors a young person or youth group for helping the community. Harnoor has gathered an **international** team of dedicated people of all ages.

In addition to running his organization, Harnoor is also a **journalist**. He writes for the Times of India, Indo-Canadian Voice, and The Asian Journal. Harnoor is interested in writing because “I wanted to create a difference in the lives of newcomer youth and get them to volunteer in their communities.” He uses writing to raise **awareness** about topics ranging from Earth Day to lung cancer.

Harnoor has received many **accolades** and awards. He received the Queen Diamond Jubilee Medal. This **prestigious** award honors the **significant** local or international achievements of Canadians. He also won the International Diana Award, spotlighting a young person who is acting as a positive role model. Harnoor was recognized as one of the Canada’s 15 under 15. While Harnoor **emphasizes** that he does not chase **recognition**, it encourages him.

In the future, Harnoor is **determined** to continue inspiring young people to get involved. He also wants to give voice to youth issues worldwide. When giving advice to other young people, Harnoor emphasizes, “Just remember, age is not a **barrier** to volunteer. So, start NOW!”

Quiz

CCSS.ELA.-LITERACY.RL.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. (i.e. what portion of the paragraph below explains Harnoor Gill and his commitment to others.)

1. “Apart from running his organization, Harnoor is also a journalist. He writes for the Times of India, Indo-Canadian Voice, and The Asian Journal. Harnoor is drawn to writing “because I wanted to create a difference in the lives of newcomer youth and get them to volunteer in their communities.” He uses writing to raise awareness about topics ranging from Earth Day to lung cancer.”

Which sentence best explains how this paragraph is important to the development of ideas in the article about Harnoor Gill?

- A. This paragraph elaborates on Harnoor’s interests to explain how he includes writing in his work to inspire others to volunteer.
- B. This paragraph provides vital information about how Harnoor’s journalism has increased his worldwide recognition.
- C. This paragraph lists additional causes that interest Harnoor and encourages the reader to join these causes as well.
- D. This paragraph characterizes Harnoor as a young person with a wide variety of charity experience.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.3 Analyse how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision. (i.e. what information contained in the following passages provides information about the reasoning behind Harnoor's actions?)

2. Harnoor's experience with bullying probably influenced him to start volunteering because volunteering helped him to have something else to think about and to use his time to help others in need.

Choose the piece of textual evidence that best supports the above inference about Harnoor.

- A. However, on his first trip to India with his parents he came face to face with people in need. He remembers, "(It was my) first brush with poverty in the form of a freezing child in the streets during a cold winter that I realized what a difference I could make."
- B. Harnoor stresses that he could not be where he is now without his parents. They have always supported and encouraged his desire to make a difference in the world.
- C. He has donated over 2,000 volunteer hours with over 20 organizations. For him, volunteering proved to be an excellent way to deal with bullying.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision. (i.e. how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

3. What idea of Harnoor's most directly influenced the creation of the Peace Welcome Club?

- A. Volunteering is a great way for anyone to overcome personal struggles such as dealing with bullying.
- B. The Peace Welcome Club has sent more than 10,000 textbooks to local communities and collected over 2,000 pairs of jeans to send to youth in India.
- C. Even though Harnoor has won several honors and awards, chasing recognition is not what volunteering is all about for him.
- D. Harnoor wants to influence other youth to offer their service since age is not a barrier to volunteer.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.R.L. 8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies of allusions to other texts. (i.e. how is the word used within the sentence? Which answer choice is the opposite of the word?)

4. "Harnoor has won numerous accolades and awards. These include receiving the Queen Diamond Jubilee Medal. This prestigious award honors the significant local or international achievements of Canadians."

Which of these is the best antonym for the word "accolades?" Please look to see how it is used in the excerpt above.

- A. honor
- B. disapproval
- C. insult
- D. recognition