

Most People

Read the students *Most People* by Michael Leannah.

Or show a video of the story (youtube.com/watch?v=XIWno5pY7io).

Ask the students if they agree that most human beings are good.

'Often it's easy to be good: to hold the door open for someone carrying heavy bags, to give honest directions to someone who's lost, or to bake a cake for a friend who's feeling down. Most of the time we have a pretty good idea of what is the right thing to do. And we just do it.'

Sandi Toksvig, broadcaster and patron of Humanists UK

Explain to the students that many humanists believe that most human beings are good to each other most of the time. We do this naturally. In most situations we know what is the right thing to do – we can work it out. However, we are not *always* good – we are not perfect – sometimes we do things that hurt other people.

A goal shared by many humanists is therefore to try to encourage everyone to be good and to avoid doing things that are harmful. One way to help persuade other people to be good is to be good to them. Being good to other people can help encourage them to be good too.

It is often easy to be good to people who are close or similar to us. But sometimes we find it more difficult to be as good to people who are more distant or different from us. Many humanists believe we should try to see everyone as human beings first (focusing on what we share rather than our differences) and try to treat everyone kindly.

