Am I My Brother’s Keeper?
Are you your brother’s keeper?

• To be a keeper in its original language means "to guard, protect or attend to" someone or something.

• Someone who is his brother's keeper looks out for and cares for others, even if they are not actually related to him or her.

• Also it does not refer to those whom we prefer to call friends, it includes everyone.
Examples

• A person who tries to be a "brother's keeper" might donate his or her time or resources to help others and will place the needs of others before his or her own.

• He will know what a sad or hurting brother looks like and try to make it better.

• Any examples you can think of in this school setting?
Questions

• Why should we care about our brothers or sisters, neighbours, co-workers or classmates?

• Why not simply focus on our own needs and concerns and let others take care of themselves?
• The first question ever asked of God was, “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

• Have you ever heard the Biblical account of the murder of Abel, by his older brother Cain?
• Abel offered a sacrifice to God and Cain did not. The first account of jealousy led to murder. God later asked Cain where his brother was,

• Cain replied "I KNOW NOT. AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?"

• Was this response to the Lord's inquiry sarcastic or defensive (or both)?
WHEN A BROTHER is doing something wrong or burdened and sad.....

• Are we ignorant of their problems? If so, why?
• Do they drift away, with no one making an effort to reach them?
• Or are we afraid to confront them, for fear of running them away?
• Are we willing to bear their burdens to help them overcome and become stronger? Or do we rather not be bothered?
• Are we quick to forgive them?
Jealousy and Envy

• Think about it. Do you sometimes brother with backbiting words, piercing stares and slicing gossip because you *should’ve* been praised or *would’ve* done better?

• It is impossible to honestly protect our brother if inside we secretly envy or dislike him.

• Let’s be honest, it is hard sometimes to rejoice in the gifts that others have that we wish were our own...to celebrate the successes of others while we wait on the sidelines.

• Yet you are called to accept and cherish not only your own gifts, but the unique gifts and contributions of those around you.
When was the last time you celebrated the things that make someone else happy?

• Has anyone here praised a classmate for having one of top marks?

"We rise by lifting others."

—Robert Ingersoll
A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. What food might this contain? The mouse wondered – he was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, “Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me.” I cannot be bothered by it.”

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, “There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!” The pig sympathized, but said, I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it “Be assured you are in my prayers.”

The mouse turned to the cow and said “There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!” The cow said, “Wow, Mr. Mouse. I’m sorry for you, but it’s no skin off my nose.”
• So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer’s mousetrap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house. The farmer’s wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer’s wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever. The farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the chicken soup.

• But his wife’s sickness continued, so friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer’s wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

• The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.
• So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn’t concern you, remember.....the mouse in the house.

• Or ...are you being asked to be a brother to others even if it will not impact negatively on you at all if you do nothing?

• Or.... Does is really impact on you negatively anyway even if it doesn’t directly affect you at all?
• You should develop an interest in another’s soul. Being wrapped up in yourself where you cannot recognize a soul that needs tending to. We are accountable for strengthening our brothers.

• **True leaders are servants.**

• **Do you agree?**

• **Any examples you can think of in history?**
• Our only true responsibility is kindness, and to know that the world is not all about our selves. We are merely a part of something much bigger than I can even imagine.

• United we stand, divided we fall.

• We are inevitably our brother's keeper because we are our brother's brother. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.
I am my brother's keeper. It's what allows us to pursue our individual dreams and yet still come together as one family, one country. 

E pluribus unum
Out of many, one.

Barack Obama
Help your brother’s boat across,
and your own will reach the shore.

~Hindu Proverb