

Name: _____ Class: _____

Outpouring of Support for France

By Joyce Grant
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In November of 2015, a mass shooting and suicide bombing happened in several locations around Paris, France. 139 people were killed and over 350 people were injured. The terrorist group ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks the following day. Following the tragedy, people all over the world expressed remorse and support for the people of France. As you read the following article, take notes on the different ways that people dealt with this tragedy.

- [1] People around the world are expressing encouragement and support for the people of France. In particular, for the people in its capital city, Paris.

In most big cities, there are large buildings or monuments that are famous. For instance, the CN Tower in Toronto, Canada or the “London Eye” Ferris wheel in London, England.

Last week, many of them were lit up in the three colors of France’s flag: blue, white and red. In that way, the countries were showing support to express their solidarity with France.



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People are feeling this way about France because something awful happened there last Friday. Explosions killed people in Paris. A terrorist group known as ISIS says that they set off the explosions in order to gain awareness for the group and the group’s beliefs. The group also led five other attacks in France that day.

- [5] The President of France, Francois Hollande, is putting many measures in place to help protect the country’s citizens.

Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, thanked people for their support. She posted on Twitter *“un grand merci du fond du coeur,”* — “a big thank-you from the bottom of my heart.” She also posted pictures of various monuments around the world lit up in blue, white and red.

People around the world have also been gathering in support, holding “vigils” (peaceful, supportive gatherings) often outside their country’s French embassies.¹ In Canada, people gathered in many cities across the country including Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto.

1. **Embassy (noun):** a group of government officials, headed by an ambassador, who represent their government in a foreign country. The building in which they work is also called an embassy.

In Paris on the weekend, many people stood in line for hours to donate blood to help people wounded in the attacks. On Twitter, many people used the hashtag #porteouverte (open door) to let people who had been hurt or frightened by the incident know that if they needed a place to stay, they were welcome in their home. More than 300 Red Cross workers have been sent to France to help.

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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. Which of the following best states a central idea of the article? [RI.2]
 - A. Terrorism is a problem that the world's leaders must work harder to stop.
 - B. France experienced a terrible attack in which many people died.
 - C. Peace is more powerful than violence.
 - D. After experiencing a tragedy, people around the world showed their support for France.

2. PART A: What does the word "solidarity" most closely mean as it is used in paragraph 3? [RI.4]
 - A. Unity and support
 - B. Fame and popularity
 - C. Peace and non-violence
 - D. Tragedy or disaster

3. PART B: Which phrase from the text provides the best clue to the answer to Part A? [RI.1]
 - A. "large buildings or monuments that are famous"
 - B. "lit up in the three colors of France"
 - C. "showing their support"
 - D. "something awful happened"

4. Using evidence from the article, explain some of the ways that people around the world reacted to France's tragedy. [RI.3]

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. Had you heard of the attacks in France before reading this article? How does it make you feel to learn about these types of incidents? Why?
2. This article focuses on the positive reactions to a tragedy. Do you think that when tragedies like this happen, the news tends to be more positive or negative? Should news organizations try to focus on both angles to a story? Why or why not?
3. In your opinion, how can tragedies like this be prevented in the future?
4. In the context of this text, what can we learn from tragedy? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.