



Children Drawing Rainbows to Offer Hope to Others

Why are people drawing rainbows?

- Children are drawing rainbows to make people feel better about the news.
- Rainbows occur after it has rained and the sun begins to come out again.

Have you seen all the rainbow drawings in people's windows, too? They've been cropping up everywhere. Well, many children in the UK are drawing them to brighten people's days.

It's been a busy time recently with schools having to close due to coronavirus. Many children, though, are trying to give hope to others.

They're colouring or painting rainbows. They then stick the rainbows in a place where passersby can see them. This can be in front windows that face onto a street.

A group called 'Chase the Rainbow' is encouraging people to take part. It says families could go "rainbow spotting whilst out for walks".

Families are also sharing their rainbow drawings on social media. It's happening around the world too.

In Italy, people are drawing rainbows and displaying them so everyone can see. Rainbow drawings often have the message 'everything will be OK' written on them.

People are doing lots of other things to help people in need. **Volunteers** are going shopping for those who can't go out to get food at the moment. They then place the food on people's doorsteps when they deliver it.

Some supermarkets have introduced special hours. This is where supermarkets open just for **key workers** and older people to get what they need.



Illustration: Children with their rainbow painting.

In London, **professional** musicians did a free concert to entertain **self-isolating** people. They played on the street outside these people's homes.

Ex-footballer Gary Neville has opened his hotel for people working at the hospitals in Manchester.

Some people are becoming pen pals. This is where people send messages to someone asking them how they're doing. They keep sending messages so people can stay in touch.

Glossary

volunteers	People who do something without getting paid.
key workers	People who have to go to their workplace to help others.
professional	People who are doing something for a living.
self-isolating	People who are having to stay inside to help stop a virus spreading.

Questions

1. Why do you think children have chosen a rainbow to draw for people?

2. In the paragraph beginning 'They're colouring', Find and copy a word that means 'people who walk past something'.

3. 'Families are sharing their images of rainbows on social media.'

This suggests that...

- they want as many people as possible to see their drawings.
- they are entering a competition.
- they only want a few people to see their drawings.
- they think their rainbows are the best.

4. Find and copy three ways that others are helping **apart** from drawing rainbows.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

5. 'In London, professional musicians did a free concert to entertain self-isolating people in their homes.'

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'entertain'.

- amuse
- help
- provide
- understand

6. Write a summary of the story in 20 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Why do you think children have chosen a rainbow to draw for people?

Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think children chose a rainbow because they are bright and colourful and will make people feel happy.

2. In the paragraph beginning 'They're colouring', Find and copy a word that means 'people who walk past something'.

passersby

3. 'Families are sharing their images of rainbows on social media.'

This suggests that...

they want as many people as possible to see their drawings.

they are entering a competition.

they only want a few people to see their drawings.

they think their rainbows are the best.

4. Find and copy three ways that others are helping **apart** from drawing rainbows.

Accept any three that refer to the following: people volunteering to do shopping for those in need; musicians performing a free concert for those self-isolating; people becoming pen pals; ex-England footballer Gary Neville saying workers at hospitals can stay at his hotel for free; supermarkets having special hours for those who are key workers or older people.

5. 'In London, professional musicians did a free concert to entertain self-isolating people in their homes.'

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'entertain'.

amuse

help

please

understand

6. Write a summary of the story in 20 words or fewer.

Accept any answer which refers to the story and is 20 words or fewer, e.g. Children are drawing rainbows and putting them up in windows to make people feel better during the coronavirus period.