7 Human Rights

1. Form groups and share ideas about the following, keeping notes. You will then present your work to the class.

a. What does the dove symbolize?

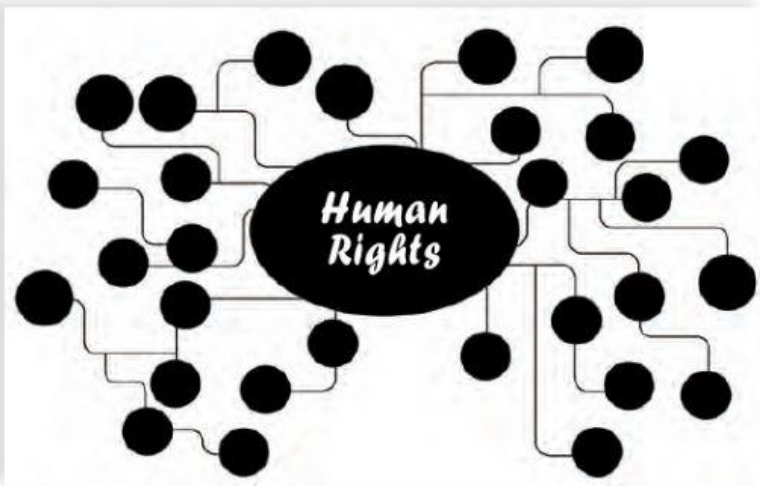
b. Can you think of any other universal symbols?

c. Who do you think has said the following quotes: a president, a philosopher, a teacher? Justify your answer.

- *We have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.*
- *A nation cannot prosper long when it favours only the prosperous.*
- *We reject as false the choice between our safety and our ideals.*

d. What are "human rights"? Which is the milestone document in the history of human rights? Do you know of any agencies which fight for the protection of human rights?

e. Brainstorm concepts related to human rights and put them down in a mind map.



f. How do you feel when people are deprived of their human rights?

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2. Read the following text and answer the questions that follow.

A new era of responsibility

(1) On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord. On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn-out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics.

(2) We remain a young nation, but in the words of scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.

(3) In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned. Our journey has never been one of short-cuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted - for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame. Rather, it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things - some celebrated but more often men and women obscure in their labour, who have carried us up the long, rugged path towards prosperity and freedom. ...

"We have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord".

(4) But our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions - that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America. ...

(5) Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions - who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short. For they have forgotten what this country has already done; what free

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men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage. ...

(6) Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends - honesty and hard work, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism - these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history. What is demanded then is a return to these truths.

"We reject as false the choice between our safety and our ideals".

(7) What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility - a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task.

(8) This is the price and the promise of citizenship. This is the source of our confidence - the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny. This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed - why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.

http://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2009/01/21/president-barack-obamas-inaugural-address

a. What type of text/genre is it?

b. What is the main point of the text? Do you think it is communicated effectively?

c. What is the main idea presented in each paragraph? Write the paragraph headings in the boxes provided.

Restoring trust	Promoting human rights	Looking to the future
Respecting values and principles	Drawing strength from our common past	Effort for a change
Gift of freedom		Facing serious challenges

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3. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (*a*, *b* or *c*) which you think best fits with the meaning of the text.

1.	**What is the speaker's purpose?**	**4.**	**What is the intended effect of the phrase "a new era of responsibility"?**
	a. to convince the audience of his ideals		a. to show the speaker's liability
	b. to assure the audience that they are in safe hands		b. to hold the public responsible for their attitude
	c. to encourage people in difficult conditions		c. to assure people of the government's accountability
2.	**What does the third caption imply?**	**5.**	**"Starting today we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off..." is used**
	a. that no dilemma really exists		a. to make a call to action for personal contribution
	b. that respect for human values is of utmost importance		b. to create a sense of unity
	c. that safety is the government's priority		c. to urge people to work hard
3.	**What kind of values does the speaker focus on in the sixth paragraph?**	**6.**	**Why does the speaker use "this is" repeatedly?**
	a. socio-cultural values		a. Because it's a direct way to introduce sentences
	b. spiritual values		b. Because repetition will help people remember his words
	c. material values		c. Because he wants to give emphasis on the importance of his words

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4. Go back to the text, underline the following words and, in pairs, try to guess their meaning in the text. Then match them with the definitions (*A-L*). You can also write them on a post-it note and add them on your word wall.

_____	1.	celebrated	A	hard to understand, not clear
_____	2.	grievance	B	quarreling and blaming one another
_____	3.	recrimination	C	well-known, famous
_____	4.	discord	D	period of historical time
_____	5.	obscure	E	unwillingly, ungenerously
_____	6.	era	F	complaint for unjust treatment
_____	7.	tolerance	G	disagreement between people
_____	8.	grudgingly	H	willingness to accept behaviour and beliefs that are different from your own
_____	9.	seize	I	(of land) wild and not even; not easy to travel over
_____	10.	rugged	J	announce officially or publicly
_____	11.	creed	K	a set of beliefs that influences the way you live
_____	12.	proclaim	L	to take something quickly and keep or hold it

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5. Complete the sentences with the correct word from the following word list.

♦ *discrimination* ♦ *tolerance* ♦ *grievance* ♦ *institution* ♦ *creed* ♦ *dignity* ♦ *liberty* ♦ *recrimination*	
1	Governors should take any _____ relating to employment very seriously.
2	The peace talks broke down and ended in bitter mutual _____.
3	Every citizen deserves a basic measure of self-respect and _____.
4	The laws of our country apply to everyone irrespective of race, _____ or colour.
5	The scandal threatened to undermine the _____ of the Presidency.
6	_____ consists in the power of doing that which is permitted by law.
7	All members of our political party show greater _____ towards opposing views.
8	With the current job situation, age _____ in employment is becoming more common.

6. Students' rights and responsibilities at school: Work in groups and make your own sentences regarding students' rights and responsibilities at school. Arrange these rules in a poster and make a presentation to your classmates. Do not forget to use a catchy title!

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