**No Man is an Island**

*By John Donne*

No one is by him/herself. We are all connected to each other

No man is an island entire of itself,  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.

“the main” refers to the mainland

If a **clod** be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less,  
As well as if a **promontory** were,  
As well as any manor of thy friend's,  
Or of thine own were.

**promontory**- a point of high land that juts out into a large body of water, like a peninsula

**clod**- a clump of soil

When someone died, churches used to toll their bells in a particular way to announce that someone had died.

Any man's death **diminishes** me,   
Because I am involved in mankind.

**diminishes**- to lessen, to feel the loss

And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  
It tolls for thee.

Although it seems like a sad poem when you first read it, understanding the idea of it – that we are all connected and important – can help you be more concerned about other people.   
When something happens on another part of the world, it still affects you. If you feel sad or happy about something that doesn’t really seem related to you, this poem explains why that is okay. It’s okay to be interested in people you don’t know. It’s okay to be concerned about people you’ve never met. You are a part of mankind.