

Compassion

Compassion: concerns for the suffering or distress of others and response to their feelings and needs.

In *Georgia Voyager Magazine's* Spring 2001 issue, in Jimmy Carter's story about growing up during the Great Depression it is clear that his family showed great compassion toward people who were less fortunate than them. Read again about how they would provide food and water for any hungry people who passed by their house.

1. Imagine that you are one of these poor hungry people on your way to Savannah during the Depression. You pass by the Carter house and are invited to have something to eat. Write about your visit to the Carter farm, using details from former President Carter's story. Remember to write about how compassionate they were toward you and how that made you feel.

2. Identify some other examples of compassion in the magazine.

3. Think about someone or some group who is suffering or in distress. They may be in your community, county, the state of Georgia, the U.S. or in another country. Research what their needs are and discuss with your classmates what you might do to show compassion toward them.

4. Action Committee — Form a class compassion action committee to help others. List two goals the committee can achieve by the end of the school year. Put your goals on paper and take to your teacher in the form of a proposal. Have your teacher approve and take it to a school counselor or other administrator. Put your goals into action and at the end of the year, send your accomplishments to your school, community, or city newspaper. Be a model for other classes to share your compassion action plans so they, too, can help others.

