



A Novel Approach to Developing Empathy

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“The theme that stitched our conversation together was a belief that, in politics and in life, the quality of **empathy**...(is) critical...”

“...It’s the lack of empathy that plunges us into wars.”

Street level bureaucrats

Street level bureaucrats



"empathic" opportunities

EMPATHY

EMPATHY

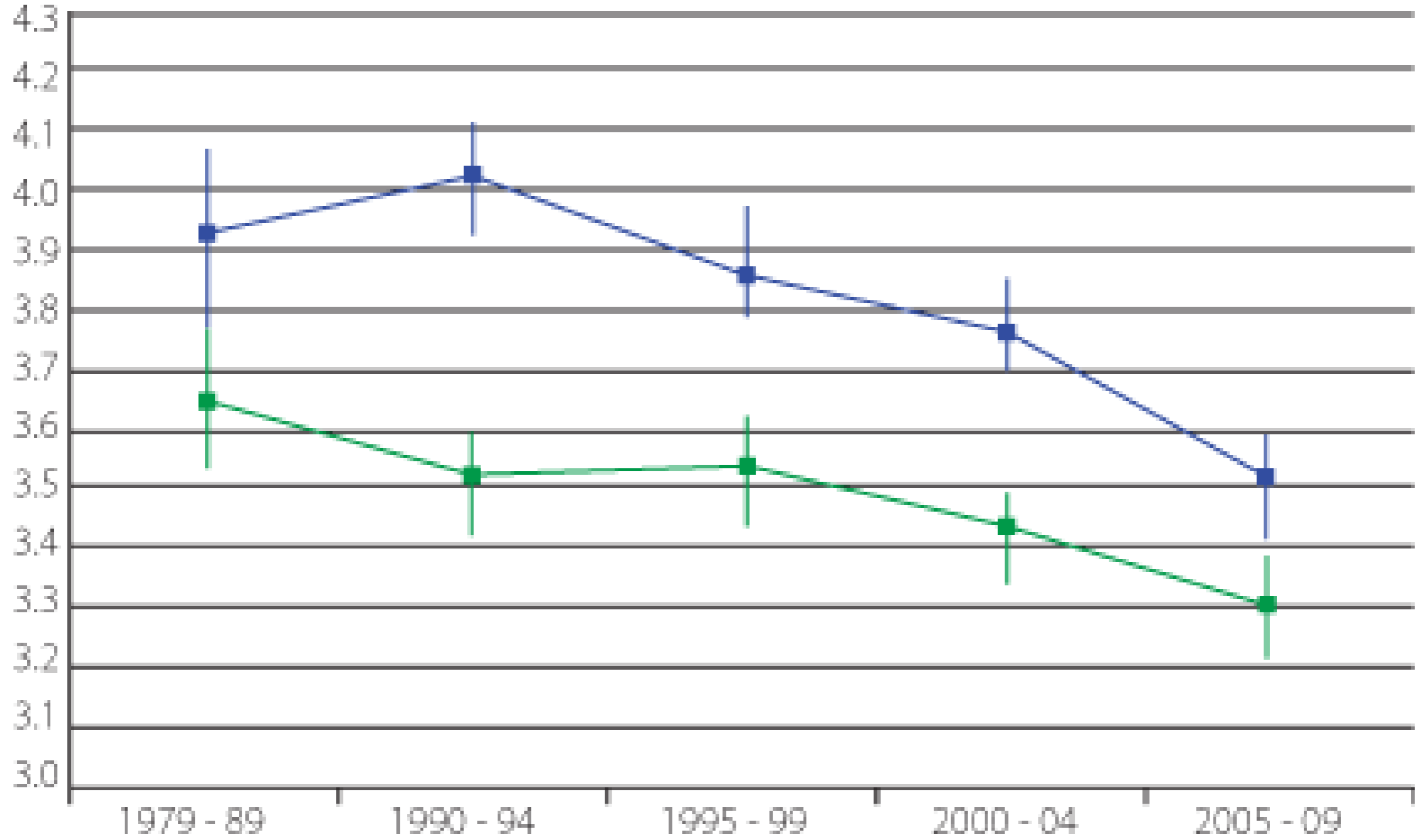
1. Step into another's shoes
2. Understand their feelings and perspectives
3. Use that understanding to guide your actions.

EMPATHY



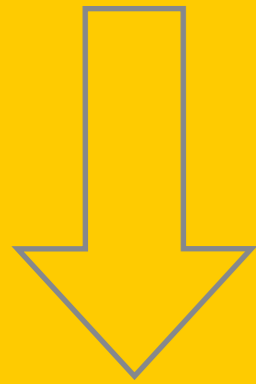
Changes in Student IRI Scores Over Time

O'Brien, Hsing & Konrath



■ Empathic Concern

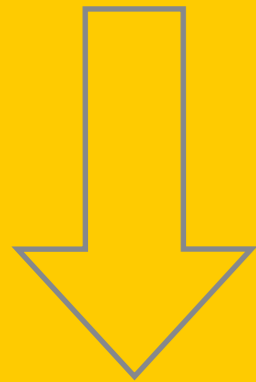
■ Perspective Taking



34%

"perspective taking"

(the ability to imagine others' points of view)

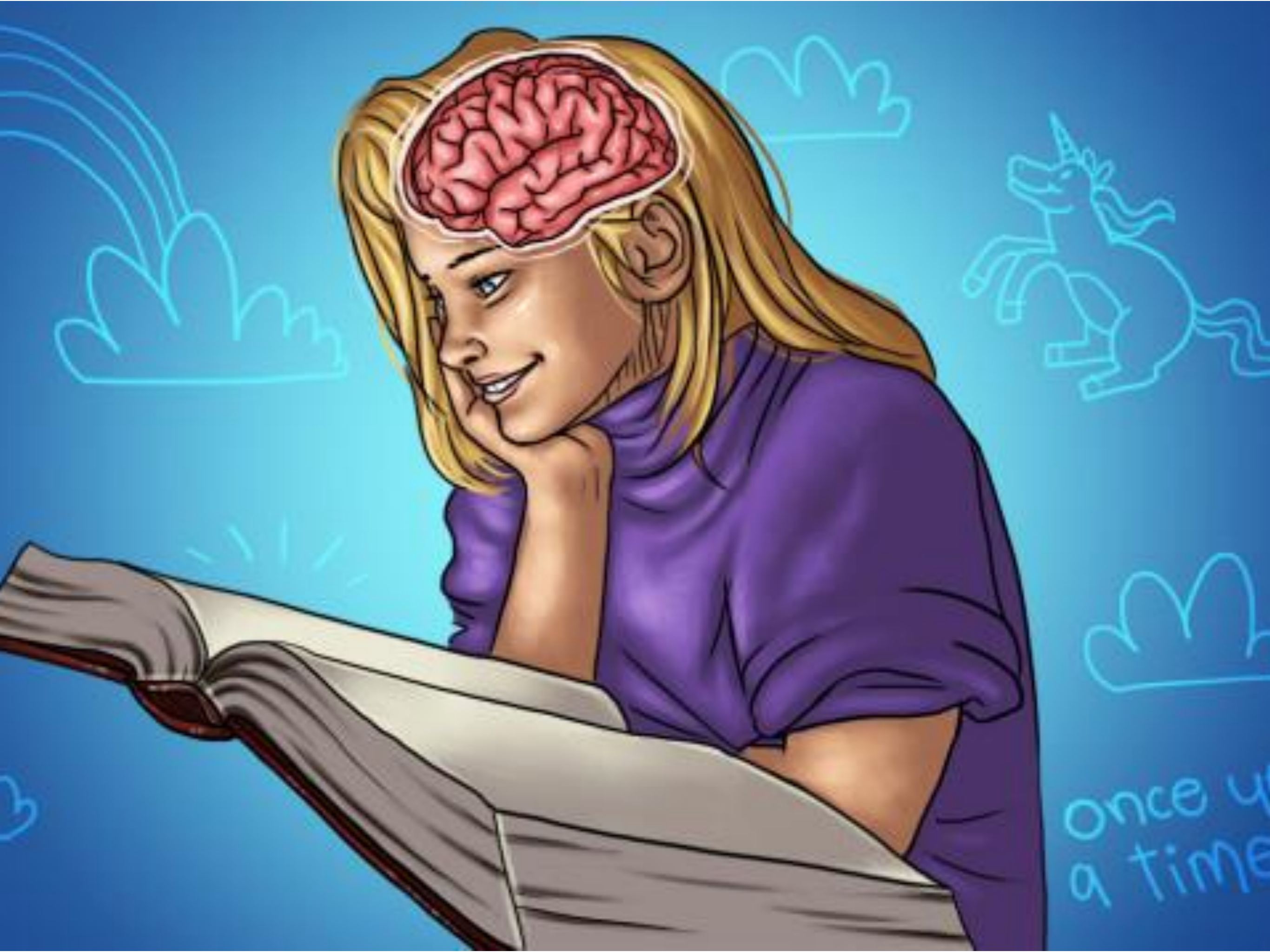


48%

"empathic concern"

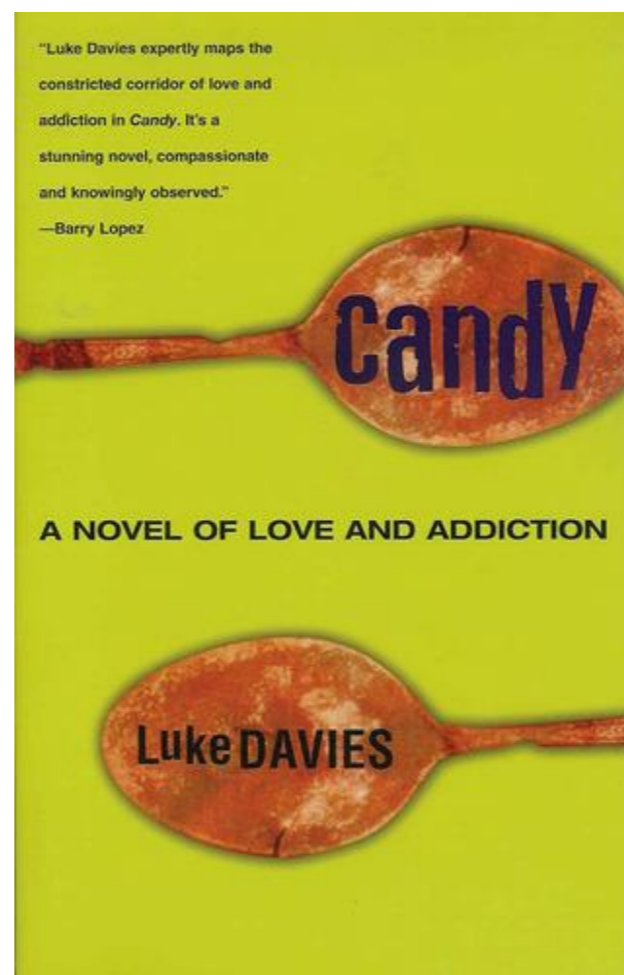
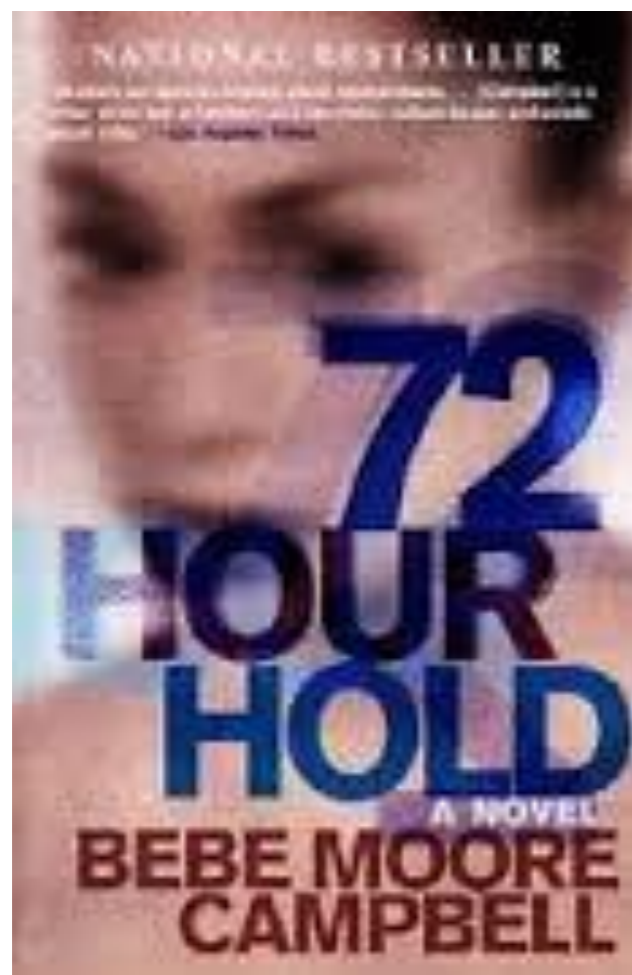
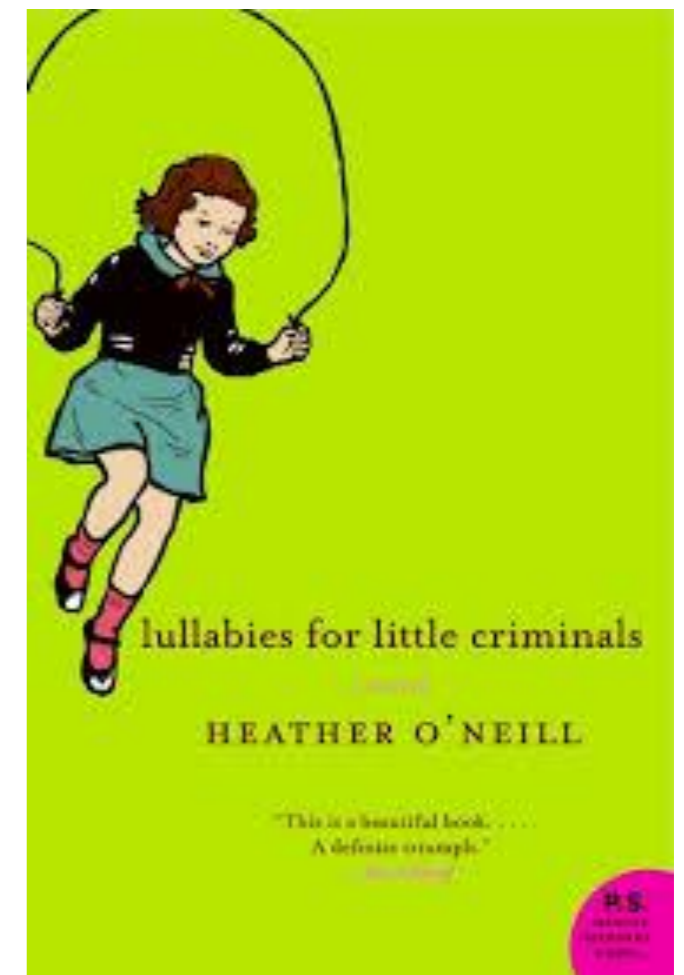
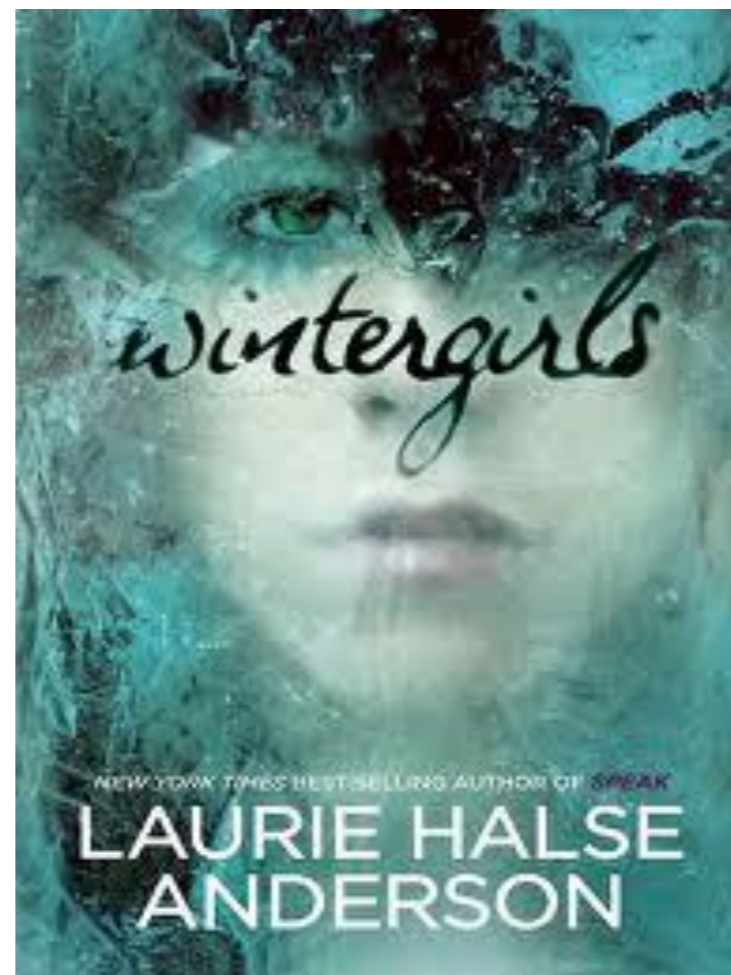
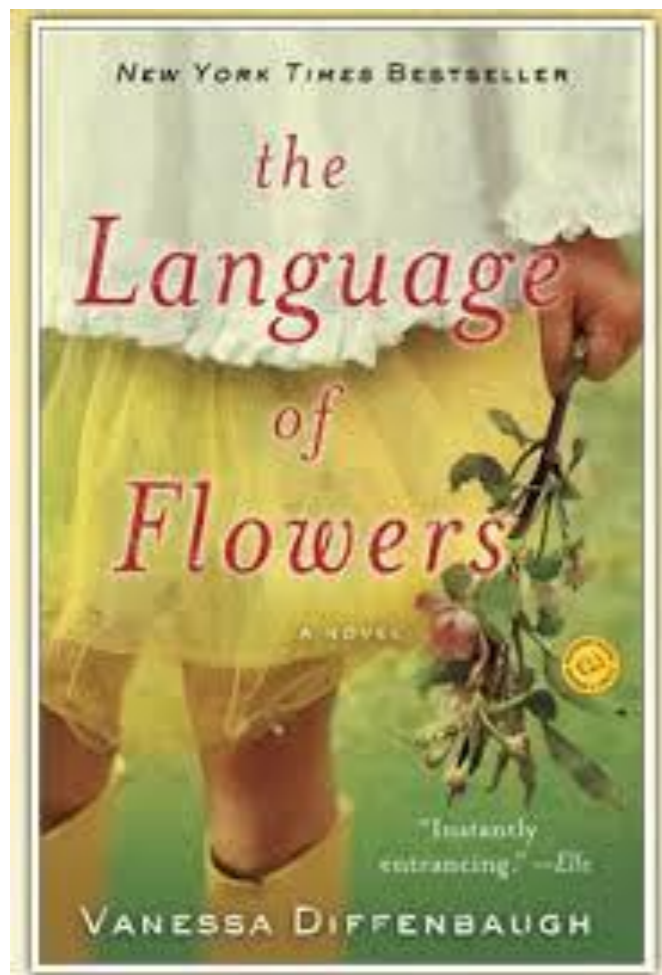
(the tendency to feel and respond to others' emotions)

Can we teach empathy?



HSER 340

**Case Management
and Documentation**



Novel

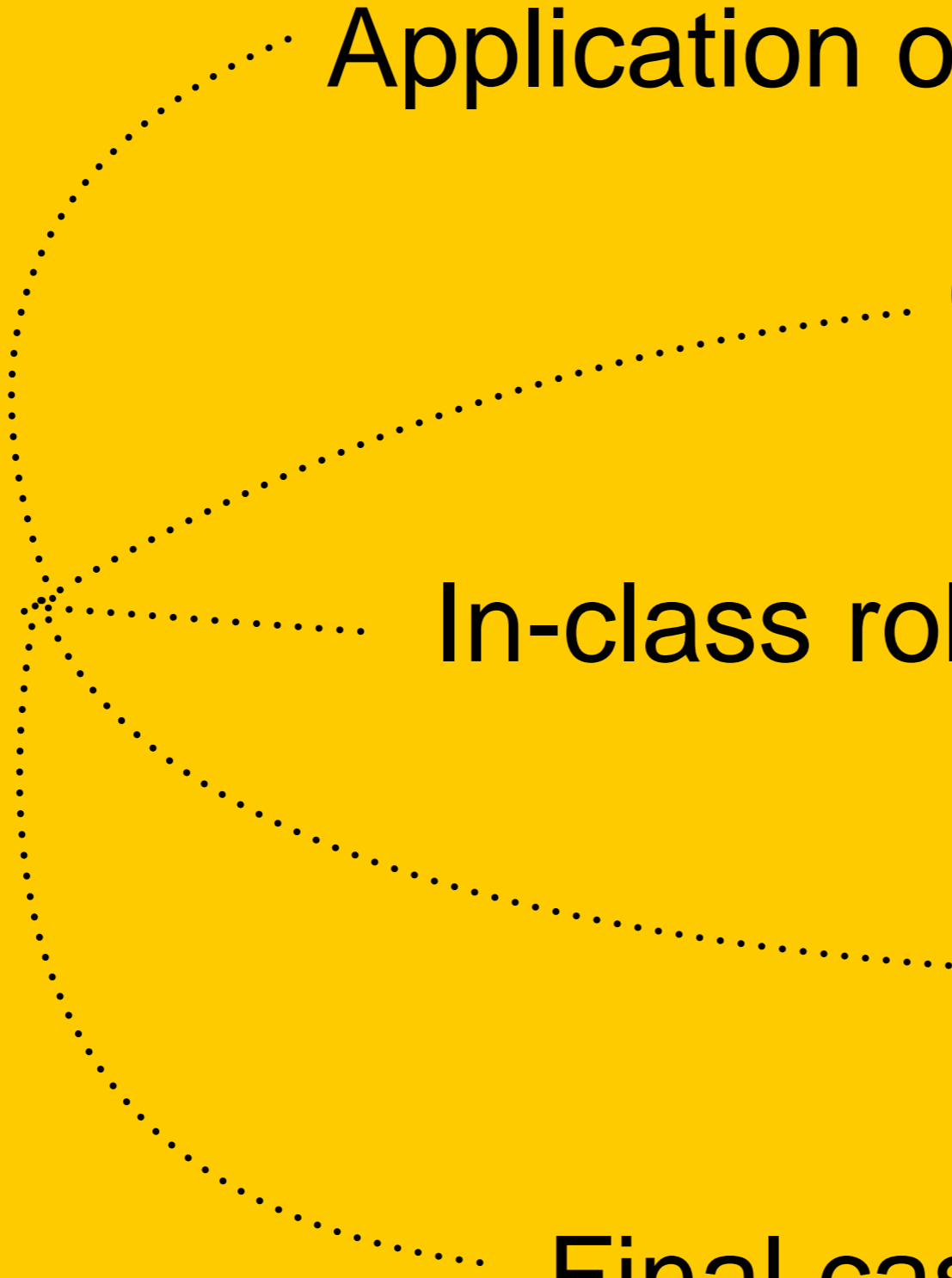
Application of course material

Class discussion

In-class role play scenarios

Guided journals

Final case review project



Can fiction improve students' understanding of the concept of empathy?

Can fiction improve students' ability to apply empathy in a real-life scenario?

	GJ3	GJ4	GJ5
Semester 1	25	25	24
Semester 2	25	--	16
Semester 3	27	26	24

{analysis}

student comments

“Although I may not have agreed with Victoria’s actions at the time, I truly understand that her life’s experiences were responsible for her decisions.”

student comments

“Three instances where my hair stood on end, but I remained non-judgemental were...”

{going forward...}



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- * Start a book club!
- * Be exposed to new people
- * Have conversations with strangers
- * Spend time in a homeless shelter
- * Practice recognizing emotional states
- * Find similarity with others
- * Role play another person
- * Spend time with babies
- * Cross age tutoring