



## LESSON PLAN: Connections & Empathy

**Topic:** Empathy & Perspectives

### **Subjects| Stream**

Comprehension

Reading

Health

Language

Visual Arts

### **Grade Level**

Junior (4-6) | Intermediate (7-10)

### **Objective(s)**

- To learn about the different perspectives of the person diagnosed and those in their life.
- To learn how a diagnosis affects more than the person diagnosed with a brain tumour.
- To learn and practice empathy.

### **Brief Summary**

This is a mind mapping activity. Students are encouraged to create their own mind map with the person diagnosed with a brain tumour being in the middle of the map.

### **Background Information**

When someone is diagnosed with a brain tumour, it affects everyone around them in their life.

### **Resources | Materials Required per Pair:**

- Handout: What is a mind mapping?
- Paper
- Writing utensils | Markers
- Access to the personal stories of hope on Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website: <https://www.braintumour.ca/category/stories/>

### **Activity Instructions:**





Step 1: Ask participants to read through 2-3 personal stories of hope on the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada website.

Step 2: Have participants create a mind map with the person diagnosed in the middle of the map (i.e.) Write “Person diagnosed with a brain tumour”

Step 3: Based on the information learned in the stories, connect a branch to the person in the middle for each person referred to in the stories (i.e.) family members, health care professionals, friends etc.

Step 4: Now add a secondary branch for each person on the mind map and write some examples of how that person is affected by the brain tumour diagnosis.

Step 5: Encourage participants to find different perspectives and information to add to their mind map. Add as many branches as possible with people, examples of feelings and / or how people are affected.

Step 6: Come back together either as a class or small groups to discuss and share.

Have participants share their thoughts:

- Any themes emerge through during this activity?
- Looking at the people on your map, how is each person affected by a brain tumour diagnosis?
- Brainstorm as a group as to how / what would help each person on the map? Are there programs, resources or support each person can be referred to? Look through [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.BrainTumour.ca) for some ideas.
- Thinking about your own family / loved ones dealing with health issues, what have you done for yourself to nurture your own mental health through it?

