

## **Slide 1: Title Slide**

When I was starting this project, I was trying to figure out the answer to the question: What do we owe each other? At first, I struggled to find a clear answer. So, I thought the best way to understand it was by looking at societies we've read about in class.

Some of these societies thrived, while others failed. I realized that two things—empathy and accountability, were a main component of these societies' rise and downfalls. Today, I'll show how they can make or break a community.

## **Slide 2: The Keys to Thriving Societies**

First off, I wanna show how empathy and accountability work together in thriving societies.

## **Slide 3: Keys for Thriving Societies**

Empathy encourages understanding and connection among members.

Accountability, on the other hand, ensures fairness and trust by holding everyone responsible for their actions.

Together, these principles create strong, stable communities where individuals can thrive.

## **Slide 4: Failed Societies:**

Now I wanna talk about some specific societies that failed in some of the texts we read this semester.

## **Slide 5: Societies That Lacked Empathy**

Let's start with a society that lacked empathy: Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery*. Here, the community actually demonstrates accountability by blindly adhering to tradition, but their actions lack empathy. The ritual sacrifice of Tessie Hutchinson shows how they value the system over individual humanity.

## **Slide 6: Quote**

This is highlighted in the quote: 'It isn't fair, it isn't right,' Mrs. Hutchinson screamed, and then they were upon her. This quote highlights the community's failure to empathize creates a dangerous society that sacrifices its members without moral reflection."

## **Slide 7: Societies That Lacked Accountability**

Next, I wanna talk about a society that lacked accountability. In Eula Biss's *Is This Kansas?*. She explored how in college towns, accountability was absent, and reckless behavior went unchecked because residents and authorities empathized with students, viewing their actions as part of growing up.

However, this misguided empathy allowed destructive behaviors to continue without consequences and left permanent residents to deal with the students' recklessness.

## **Slide 8: Societies with Both but Still Failing**

Even when empathy and accountability coexist, their misapplication can lead to failure, as we see in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*.

## **Slide 9: Societies with Both but Still Failing**

Empathy existed in personal relationships, such as John Proctor's care for his family, but it's weaponized during the witch trials to manipulate and accuse others. Then, accountability transformed into paranoia, which led to unjustified persecution. Ultimately, these misapplied principles led to fear and the community's collapse, showing us that these values must be applied thoughtfully.

## **Slide 10: How Can We Apply Empathy and Accountability Thoughtfully?**

So, how can we apply empathy and accountability in a way that supports thriving societies?

## **Slide 11: How to Apply Them Thoughtfully**

First, empathy must be inclusive, extending to everyone, not just someone's inner circle.

Second, accountability should be rooted in fairness rather than fear or control, like in *The Crucible*

Overall, these principles must be applied consistently to ensure fairness and trust., and not only when it is convenient or easy

## **Slide 12: Conclusion**

"In conclusion,

I've learned that empathy and accountability aren't enough on their own—they must work together, and be applied thoughtfully and consistently.

"So, what do we owe each other? I believe that we owe a shared commitment to these values. And through that commitment, we give everybody an opportunity to live in communities where everyone can feel valued, supported, and respected. Thank you