Identifying Global Issues

A global issue incorporates the following three properties:

- It has significance on a wide/large scale.
- It is transnational.
- Its impact is felt in everyday local contexts.

You might look to one or more of the following **fields of inquiry** for guidance on how to decide on a global issue on which to focus. These topics are not exhaustive and are intended as helpful starting points for students to generate ideas and derive a more specific global issue. It should also be noted that there is the potential for significant overlap between the areas.

Culture, identity and community
Students might focus on the way in which works explore aspects of family, class, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender and sexuality, and the way these impact on individuals and societies. They might also focus on issues concerning migration, colonialism and nationalism.

Beliefs, values and education
Students might focus on the way in which works explore the beliefs and values nurtured in particular societies and the ways they shape individuals, communities and educational systems. They might also explore the tensions that arise when there are conflicts of beliefs and values, and ethics.

Politics, power and justice
Students might focus on the ways in which works explore aspects of rights and responsibilities, the workings and structures of governments and institutions. They might also investigate hierarchies of power, the distribution of wealth and resources, the limits of justice and the law, equality and inequality, human rights, and peace and conflict.

Art, creativity and the imagination
Students might focus on the ways in which works explore aspects of aesthetic inspiration, creation, craft, and beauty. They might also focus on the shaping and challenging of perceptions through art, and the function, value and effects of art in society.

Science, technology and the environment
Students might focus on the ways in which works explore the relationship between humans and the environment and the implications of technology and media for society. They might also consider the idea of scientific development and progress.

In identifying the global issue, be careful not simply to select from the fields of inquiry above (which are way too broad), but to determine a specific issue for discussion.