A cutting-edge piece of artificial intelligence is created. Its body is made of digital nerves and constructed skin and bone, its mind is wholly independent, emotional, and can think and process information on its own. Would you consider this new piece of machinery to be human? Why or why not?

What Makes Us Human?

We have looked at several different accounts of humanity through perspectives from all around the world and time, from Elizabethan Shakespeare to modern-day Afghanistan. However, the common thread throughout all of it is the humanity that each of the characters have independently in all of these stories. Just how that humanity is portrayed, though, is often differentiated. Today, as a segue into our next unit and a look back into what we have done so far, you will be completing the chart below to answer the question based on each of the works we have read to answer this essential question: what makes us human?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of text | What does this work argue specifically of what makes us human? | What from the text supports this idea? (Non-specific reference) |
| *The Kite Runner* |  |  |
| *Macbeth* |  |  |
| *All Quiet on the Western Front* |  |  |
| *Night* |  |  |
| Excerpt from *Born a Crime* |  |  |