G1 The JLG Definition of Empathy

Here is a formulation that aligns with your philosophical precision:

Empathy is a disciplined, respectful presence to another's experience that preserves their ownership of meaning and my own agency to respond.

Expanded is a disciplined teaching version:

Empathy is not emotional fusion, nor interpretive authority. It is attentive presence without appropriation — listening with appreciation and respect, while neither absorbing the other's experience nor defining it for them. It safeguards dignity by preserving boundaries and agency on both sides.

Ultra-succinct version (training-ready):

Empathy = Presence + Respect + Boundary + Agency.

This distinguishes your model clearly from both sympathy and interpretive reflection.