

WS12 COLLEGE LEVEL Lesson Plan

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Title: “The Dream”

Length of Lesson: two class periods



“The Dream” delivers a very powerful message of peace. This song says directly what so many of us need to hear every day. This message will not only help students to hear this message of peace, but also to realize the way that music helps to deliver incredibly important and powerful messages. Music can be used as an instrument of peace. Music brings people together.

The overall goal of this lesson is for students to simply embrace, understand, and ideally, carry this message of peace into their lives. Specifically, students will listen to “The Dream”, written and performed by Michael Johnathon. Students will focus entirely on listening and absorbing the message of “The Dream”.

Once students have listened to the song, there will then be a reflection time in which they write down their feelings. Students will actually begin an entire journal in which they write daily for a month. Students may write freely some days each week, while teachers are encouraged to offer a prompt (topic) in reference to creating peace through music and art for other days. The teacher may include some fundamental questions such as, “What does the idea of peace mean to you?” “What are some ways that you may create and work for peace in your lives, school and community?” “How do you think music brings people together?”

There are so many forms of beautiful music around the world. Students are encouraged to appreciate and celebrate diversity not only in musical form, but in our lives and the ways we treat one another and all beings. Students will also use this journal to write down various musical styles including the music of other cultures. This will allow students to expand their understanding of various cultures, musical instruments, sounds and also understanding that music brings people together.

Students will listen to “The Dream” and then begin their journal. Students will listen to Michael Johnathon’s “The Dream” in its entirety before writing anything. The idea is for students to really hear the message of peace. Students will begin a journal in which they write daily. Students may write freely some days about peace and the ways they are creating it in their lives. Students are also encouraged to think about the ways that music and art bring people together and help create peace. Teachers may offer writing prompts (topics) for some days. Students will also be given quotes to reflect upon in their journal writing. The quotes are as follows:

“Art is a revolt against fate.”

Andre Malraux, France

“My first wish is to see war, this plague of mankind, banished from the earth.”

George Washington

“Peace cannot be kept by force;
it can only be achieved by understanding.”

Albert Einstein

“I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower

“We have flown the air like birds,
swim the sea like fishes,
but have not learned to walk the earth like brothers.”

Martin Luther King, Jr

The journal writing will also include students exploring the music of various cultures. Students will be asked to listen to the different instruments, style, and also learn about the culture. The journal writing will serve as a method for students to record what they learn.

Students will choose a song that they believe delivers a powerful message of peace.

Students will also be asked to journal their thoughts on the song and why they chose it. Students will also share this one particular journal entry. The other entries, however, may be personal to the students and they will not be required to share, but encouraged to incorporate their ideas of creating peace into their daily lives.

Information Text: Within this lesson, students will explore the idea of how music brings people together. Students will research and find historical examples of times in which music brought about peace. Students will write an informational piece based upon their research. The written piece will be three to four pages and will include at least four reliable sources. The overall goal is for the students to understand how music does bring about peace, change and encourages community. So, while including a research and writing component, students will also begin to think about how they may also create music and/or art to bring about peace.

Goals & Objectives:

- **Students will apply the concept of peace into their daily lives and communities**
- **Students will understand the ways that music encourages peace and a sense of community**
- **Knowledge of various genres of music**
- **Knowledge of musical instruments among various genres**
- **Builds critical thinking skills through journal writing**
- **Builds Communication Skills**
- **Encourages working collaboratively in an effort to create peace**
- **Encourages reflective writing**
- ***Students will understand historical examples of how music encourages peace and togetherness***

Vocabulary Within Lesson:

The goal of this entire lesson is really for students to HEAR a message of peace and apply to their lives. The journal writing activities and discussion certainly encourage this. Activity 2 will allow students to research and have historical examples of music creating peace and a sense of community. That being said, I don't want to have students focus on particular vocabulary words for this lesson; rather, the message of peace is the emphasis.

Rubric and Guidelines:

The following are guidelines in which you may assess student's understanding and application of this song:

Demonstrates an understanding of artistic and musical expression as a message of peace. There are not further guidelines for this lesson. Peace is the message and creating it by finding ways to do so in our daily lives.