

WS12 MIDDLE SCHOOL Lesson Plan

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Title: “The Dream”

Length of Lesson: two class periods

Grade Level: 7th & 8th grade



Objective:

“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. There will then be a discussion time in which the teacher will encourage, but not require, the students to share their feelings and thoughts. The teacher may include some fundamental questions such as, “What does the word 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. This episode will allow students to reflect upon the meaning of peace to them. This may seem like a vague question, but the journal writing reflection and discussion will hopefully encourage a deeper response and understanding.

Description of Lesson/Activities & Procedures:

Activity 1:

Activity 1 will have students listen to “The Dream” and journal and write their feelings/thoughts after listening. 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.

Activity 2:

Activity 2 in this lesson will have students to explore the idea of how music brings people together. Students will research and find one historical example of a time in which music brought about peace. Students will write an informational piece based upon their research. The written piece may only be one to two pages. The overall goal is for the students to understand how music does bring about change. 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.

Activity 3:

Activity 3 is journal writing. Students do not have to share this with the class, as it may be personal to them.

Students will think of 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 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

Connection to English Language Arts Standards:

- Describe how the elements of music and expressive qualities relate to the structure of the pieces
- listen to and explore how changing different elements results in different musical effects
- recognize, describe and compare various styles of music
- Demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression
- compare and explain purposes for which music is created to fulfill (ceremonial, recreational, artistic expression)
- Students make sense of ideas and communicate ideas with music
- Identify accurate, credible sources (Activity 2)
- Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes (informational text and journal and creative writing)
- Write an informative/explanatory text to: examine a topic, convey ideas, concepts and information through: text selection, organization and analysis of relevant content (Activity 2)

Connections to Music Standards:

- Identify and compare various styles of music
- Describe and compare the characteristics and purposes of works of art representing various cultures, historical periods, artists, and/or style

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 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.