

WS20 MIDDLE SCHOOL Lesson Plan

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WoodSongs Classroom

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Curriculum Design/Project Coordinator

- **Title: Guns & Peace**
- **Subject: Guns and Violence**
- **Length of Lesson: Two-Three Class Periods**
- **Grade Level: 7th & 8th Grade**
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- **Introduction and Overview:** This lesson is designed entirely to deliver a message of peace and non-violence. The song, Gun, is written and performed by Michael Johnathon. The violence and tragedies that have happened in schools are devastating. We want to encourage a message of peace. Through this song, Michael Johnathon discusses that guns are not the "...piece that causes peace."
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- We, at WoodSongs, want to encourage a peaceful world, which starts with our homes and schools. We want students to feel safe to discuss and ask questions about their own safety. Students are encouraged to think about the second amendment and what it actually meant (based on the time it was written verses the times we have now).
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- Michael explains the lyrics to his song, Gun, in the following way: " The point of this song is not about the gun, it's about the gunman. People kill people, guns don't kill people. And I think that's the point of the lyric, but at the same time I am absolutely not in favor of the mass distribution of firearms. This demonstrates the difficulty of the problem which is what we want students to openly discuss inside the classroom using the song as a template."
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- Once students have listened to the song, there will then be a reflection time in which they write down their feelings. 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?" "What are some concerns that you have?" This is an opportunity for the students to share their worries and concerns.
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- This is obviously a very sensitive subject, and should be treated in a sensitive manner, which allows students to feel safe and heard.
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- **Activity 1:**After listening to the song, have a brief class discussion, where you ask the students questions. If they do not wish to share, they do not have to, but it may be a good time for them to be heard and to voice their concerns.
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- **Activity 2:** This is also an opportunity to discuss those that have worked for peace. Take some time to talk about Martin Luther King Jr. Then, encourage students to research those that have worked for peace and harmony. Have students research their efforts and message. We also encourage you to introduce students to quotes that encourage peace.
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- **TO PLAY THE SONG**

- For reference, begin here with both the lyrics to Michael Johnathon’s song, Gun, and also a quote from Martin Luther King Jr: <http://www.michaeljohnathon.com/gun/>

- Encourage students to explore the idea of how music and art bring people together.

- **LYRICS**

Don't point that gun
 Don't point that gun
 that aint the piece
 that causes peace
 Don't point that gun

Don't aim at me
 Don't aim at me
 Finally
 set yourself free
 Don't aim at me

I don't believe
 what I see
 Hot tempered world aimed right at me
 Tell everyone
 put down that gun
 that ain't the piece
 that causes peace Put down that gun

I'm not your friend
 I'm not your friend
 I'm not your lover
 I'm just your brother
 But I'm not your friend

Creative Project/Presentation Scoring Sheet

Creativity/Presentation of material	/
	/
	/
	/
	/
	/
Total	/100