

“One Day” Peace Seminar

Rationale: This lesson is intended to use music as an introduction to teaching peace and understanding in the classroom. Additionally, it is designed to establish group discussion protocols in a seminar format.

Objectives: Students will examine the lyrics of the song “One Day” by Matisyahu in order to better understand the artist’s views on peace. Students will participate in a seminar in order to share ideas about building a more peaceful world.

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.1

Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.2

Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.5

Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.6

Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.

Materials: Students will each need a copy of the lyrics to Matisyahu’s song “One Day” and a blank sheet of paper to make a name tent for the seminar. You can find the music at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRmBChQjZPs>. An optional extension is to show the music video either before or after the discussion.

Time: One 45-minute class period.

Procedures:

Engage – Ask students to jot down a response to any of the following questions: What do you think of when you hear the word peace? What songs make you think of peace? Describe a time when you felt at peace.

Explore – Today we will read and listen to a song by Jewish American, reggae & rock singer-songwriter Matisyahu. Distribute copies of the lyrics to Matisyahu’s “One Day.” As they listen to

the song, ask students to put a * star next to one stanza that stands out to them and underline one line that they can best connect with.

Explain – Explain to students that we will have a seminar discussion in order to share ideas about how to create a more peaceful world. We will use the text to look at what Matisyahu thinks of a peaceful world and then discuss what role we play in building peace.

Explain that during the discussion students do not need to raise their hand to speak, but should try to focus on the main speaker and wait their turn to talk. We are going to practice building on what others say – agreeing and disagreeing in a courteous, respectful manner. As the facilitator, the teacher’s job is to ask challenging, open-ended questions and model how to listen to others.

At this time, instruct students to fold a sheet of paper in half to make a name tent. On the backside they should copy a selected class goal and a personal goal for the discussion. Some ideas can include:

- Use others’ names
- Make eye contact
- Refer to the text to cite evidence
- Build on others’ ideas
- Keep an open mind
- Ask an open-ended question

Elaborate – When ready, begin the discussion by asking students to go in a circle and share which stanza stood out to them or which line they most connected with. Once everybody has shared, open the discussion with one of the following guiding questions. The teacher should then actively listen and provide additional guiding questions to further the discussion:

- Describe Matisyahu’s vision for a peaceful world. How does it compare to yours?
- Which lines or stanzas stood out to us the most? Why do you think that is?
- What role do you think you play in building a more peaceful world?
- How does music help Matisyahu share his ideas? What other media might one use to share ideas about peace?

Evaluate – Towards the end of the discussion, thank students for being active participants in today’s discussion. Ask students to conclude by using one of the following sentence starters to share a final thought:

- Peace is...
- One day...
- I can...
- Imagine...
- I am a peacebuilder...

Assessment: At the end of the seminar, students should be asked to reflect on both the class goal and their personal goal. This can be done through a quick informal rating (e.g. fist-to-five) or a written response. Additionally, you can assign written reflection questions based on the discussion topics and ideas. Lastly, a good extension might be to have students design posters (or any other medium) illustrating what peace means to them using words and images.

Another unique tool for assessment is a teacher discussion tracker. Draw a large circle on a sheet of paper (or chart paper) and write each student's name or initials around the outside of this circle in the order that they are seated. Begin with the student who initiates the conversation and then draw a line connecting his/her name to the name of the next student to speak. Continue drawing lines to connect the names of each student as they thoughtfully contribute to the discussion. You will end up with a web of intersecting lines visually representing how often each student participated. This is a good tool to show students in the middle of the discussion in order to help them regulate their participation or prompt others to join in. It can similarly be used as a reflection tool at the end of the seminar.

Lastly, the teacher can use symbols to record information about the quality of comments and participation. For example, a "?" can be put next to a student's name who asked a thought-provoking question or an "E" for a student who used evidence from a text in his/her comment. This is another good visual for students to monitor the quality of their participation and set goals to improve.

“One Day” Lyrics

Peace day song

CEIP LA ARBOLEDA.

MATISYAHU LYRICS **"One Day"**

Sometimes I lay
Under the moon
And thank God I'm breathing
Then I pray
Don't take me soon
'Cause I am here for a reason

Sometimes in my tears I drown
But I never let it get me down
So when negativity surrounds
I know some day it'll all turn
around because...

All my life I've been waiting for
I've been praying for
For the people to say
That we don't wanna fight no more
There will be no more wars
And our children will play
One day [x6]

It's not about
Win or lose
Because we all lose
When they feed on the souls of the
innocent
Blood-drenched pavement
Keep on moving though the waters
stay raging

In this maze you can lose your
way (your way)
It might drive you crazy but don't
let it faze you no way (no way)

Sometimes in my tears I drown (I
drown)
But I never let it get me down (get
me down)
So when negativity surrounds
(surrounds)
I know some day it'll all turn
around because...

All my life I've been waiting for
I've been praying for
For the people to say
That we don't wanna fight no more

There will be no more wars
And our children will play
One day [x6]

One day this all will change
Treat people the same
Stop with the violence
Down with the hate

One day we'll all be free
And proud to be
Under the same sun
Singing songs of freedom like
One day [x2]

All my life I've been waiting for
I've been praying for
For the people to say
That we don't wanna fight no more
There will be no more wars
And our children will play
One day [x6]