

Creating Your Peace

Extended Playlist

Teaching Artist - Ali LaRock

Lesson Focus:

Looking at excerpts from two children's picture books as inspiration, *The Peace Book*, by Todd Parr, and *Peace is An Offering*, by Anette LeBox, students will think about what things bring them peace in their lives. It may be people, pets, favorite activities etc. They will create their own "Peace Is..." illustration learning how to use simple drawing and collage approaches. Becoming more aware of what brings us peace and happiness in our daily lives can help us make choices to do more of these things when we are feeling low or need to take care of ourselves.

Extended Playlist

- *Create a Peace Book*

Students could reflect on the variety of things that bring them peace and make a book to include multiple ideas. This could be as simple as paper stacked, folded together, and then stapled. Or maybe students could create their own style of book. Another approach is to gather a drawing from everyone and create a class book that can be kept in the environment for a resource for students to look at when needed.

- *Same But Different*

Try this approach multiple times but in different ways to get new results and practice risk taking in art. Provide new materials for students to try this project again. Colored craft foam comes in thin sheets and can easily be cut into shapes. It is easy to collage with by adding small dots of glue on the back. It can also be purchased in mixed bags of pre-cut shapes (these can also be cut further to get specific shapes and some come with sticky backs). Todd Parr's illustrations are created with simple shapes and solid colors. The craft foam would lend itself well to creating fun collages in a similar style. For younger students, even pre-cutting a variety of construction paper shapes and setting them out might spark inspiration in a new way.

- *Explore Further*

Have students spend more time really thinking and talking about what the word *peace* can mean to them. Give them the prompts, "What does peace sound, look, feel, and taste like?" See what everyone creates for each one and read them out loud. Read or watch the read-aloud of the book, *What Does Peace Feel Like?* by V. Radunsky. This children's book includes answers from kids around the world to these very questions.

Other Great Books With a Similar Theme

- I am Peace by Susan Verde
- We are Grateful by Traci Sorell
- The Peace Tree of Hiroshima by Sandra Moore
- Can You Say Peace? by Karen Katz
- Thanks a Million by Nikki Grimes