

Lesson #1 - Grade 5
Including Others/ Respecting Differences



Harassment, intimidation or bullying refers to any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication that is reasonably perceived as being motivated by a person's characteristics (ie, race, color, disability, etc.) that hurts someone physically or emotionally. This can be either a single incident or a series of incidents, occurring on or off school grounds.

Think...

***H**ave empathy*

***R**espect differences*

***I**dentify feelings*

***V**alue yourself*

***E**manate kindness*

New Jersey SEL Competency: Social Awareness

Sub-competency:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the differences among individuals, groups, and others' cultural backgrounds

Respect: a way of treating or thinking about something or someone. Showing respect means that you act in a way that shows you care about other people's feelings.

Diversity: means being different and unique from others

Upstander: someone who observes a person being treated in an unkind way and stands up for that person

Inclusion: words and behaviors that ensure others feel welcome

Objective:

Students will be able to:

- Understand that people can be different in many ways
- Read and listen to Maya Angelou's poem *Human Family* to discuss the theme of diversity and respecting differences.

Materials:

- [Digital version](#) of this lesson (*Follow along with the lesson plan below. Make a copy if you intend to type in the presentation.*)
- Words to the poem, [Human Family](#), by Maya Angelou - one copy for each student
- [Human Family Video](#)
- Smartboard or projector to show video
- Lined paper or journal
- Pen
- [Teacher Feedback Survey](#)

Activities:

1. Begin by asking students to define the word diversity in their journals. Ask a few to share out and guide them toward this definition: ***Diversity means being different and unique from others.***
2. Main lesson: Pass out a copy of the poem to each student and ask them to read it over to themselves once. Or the teacher can project the poem on the board (link is in the slideshow). When finished viewing the video,
3. Show the video and once the video is over, the teacher will read it aloud to the class, following the punctuation and stressing certain parts. If you pass out hard copies of the words, ask the class to highlight any words or phrases in their hard copy that are meaningful to them (instruct students to be frugal with their highlighters and choose only the words or phrases with the most meaning to them). Otherwise, ask students to view the poem on the board and jot down words and phrases in a notebook.
4. Once they found their words or phrases, they should annotate in the margin (or in notebooks) why those words stood out to them/what is the purpose for them in the poem?
5. Have students share with the class and explain why they chose these passages. The teacher can write some of them on the board or in the slide show.
6. Finally, in groups, ask students to come up with a summary of what they think is the theme of the poem in one or two sentences, writing it on the paper or in a journal. They should have one theme per group and be able to explain to the class why they came up with that. (*Main idea of poem: Maya Angelou teaches us that we are all people, and so much more alike than different. The world would be so different if we all lived this simple truth.*)

Closure:

Ask for some examples from their own lives or in the news that speak to this topic. Examples need to be appropriate.

Note to teacher, this discussion might bring up topics that are controversial - be

prepared to take control of the discussion. Any issues that arise can be brought to the attention of the counselor.