

Peace Is an Offering
By Annette LeBox,
Illustrated by Stephanie Graegin

A gentle rhyming book with soothing pictures illustrating peace found in everyday life.

Audience:

- PK-5

Synopsis:

Peace is all around us, even in the everyday things we may take for granted. This gentle rhyming book describes the actions and feelings that peace represents. Illustrations show peaceful events such as a group of children seeking friendship and peace in their community.

Author Website:

- <http://annettelebox.com>

Illustrator Website

- <http://www.graegin.com>

Curricular Connections:

- Beginning of Year (Aug-Sept)
- International Day of Peace (Sept 21)
- Holidays: Thanksgiving (Nov), Christmas (Dec), New Years (Jan), Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan), Valentine's Day (Feb), Earth Day (April), National Poetry Month (April)
- Creative Writing
- Journaling
- Response to Literature
- Comparing Texts
- Art
- Photography
- Video
- Digital Media

Lesson Ideas:

- Beginning of School Year/Making Friends/Emotional Intelligence (PK-5)
 - Use in conjunction with *Have You Filled a Bucket Today* at the beginning of the school year to develop and foster a sense of belonging for each student in the class.
 - Use discussion questions in the back of the bucket filler book and activities from the Bucketfillers 101 website (<http://www.bucketfillers101.com/bucket-lessons.php>) throughout the year to maintain an emotionally safe environment for all students.

- <http://www.afsc.org/we-celebrate-peace-holiday-coloring-book?key=0>
Holiday Peace Coloring Book (download available in English and Spanish) from the American Friends Service Committee
- Poetry Writing (2nd-5th)
 - Read the book to the class.
 - After the first reading, use a document camera to show the pictures on the screen.
 - Have a discussion about how the pictures illustrate the words and how they work together to tell a bigger story than just the words or pictures could do on their own.
 - Have students work individually or in groups to write an additional rhyme in the same scheme to add to the book.
 - Web 2.0 version: Have students in other classes work together using Google Docs to write, edit, and revise their poems.
- Creative Writing (2nd-5th)
 - Read the book to the class.
 - Use a document camera to share one illustration with the whole class, or make photocopies of selected pages and distribute to small groups.
 - Have the students work individually or in small groups to use the image in front of them and write a story explaining what is going on in the image as a whole, or on one small portion of the image.
- Response to Literature/Journal Writing (1st-5th)
 - After reading the book, have students pick their favorite rhyme or illustration from the book and write a journal entry explaining why or how it spoke to them personally, and how and where they experience peace in their own lives.
- Compare/Contrast (3rd-5th)
 - Read the book aloud, along with Peace Begins with You (listed below).
 - Have the students compare and contrast the texts to notice how the poem form differs from the explanatory form of writing.
 - How do the authors express themselves? Is the theme the same, even though the texts are different?
 - Which format do you like better?
 - Can you think of another way the same theme could be shared?
- Art (3rd -5th)
 - Work in conjunction with the Art teacher to read the book, and create a lesson on illustration.
 - After looking at the illustrator's website (listed above), students could work individually or in groups to create a two-page spread illustration that could be added to the story to accompany their poem, or that of another student/group (see Creative Writing, above).
 - Web 2.0 version: Have students use VoiceThread, Stupeflix, Animoto or other digital media tool to create, display, and share their contribution.

- Digital Mixed Media (3rd-5th)
 - Have students brainstorm other ways we can find peace in our everyday lives.
 - Distribute digital cameras or ipads and have students take pictures or short video clips around the school building or around the grounds (children on the playground, children interacting with teachers, etc).
 - Use these images or videos to create a short music video to accompany the book.

Common Core Anchor Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1
Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W. 5
Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.6
Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9
Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.3
Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.6
Use technology, including the internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W. 10
Write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1
Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.5 Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

Online Resources:

- <http://www.blog.montessoriforeveryone.com/promoting-peace.html> 10 ways to promote peace in your classroom

Suggested Companion Titles:

- McCloud, Carol. *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*. Northville, MI: Ferne Press, 2007.
- Scholes, Katherine. *Peace Begins with You*. NY: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 1994.