

Peace Poetry Activities



The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed world wide with diverse activities on and around September 21. Engage youth in poetry for peace!

Haiku

5-7-5 syllables, generally uses images from nature

Example:

Butterflies kiss buds
Fluttering, chasing, floating
“Peace” their wings whisper.

Free verse:

No rhyme but uses some kind of rhythm, and includes personal themes.

Example:

Peace is sharing,
Peace is caring,
Peace is harmony. Peace is love;
The symbol is a dove. Peace is our freedom, Peace is our
friendship.

4) Again using free verse, use the senses – touch, smell, hearing
taste – to describe what you feel about peace.

Example:

Peace is soft purple like the middle of a sunrise
Peace tastes like warm waffles with fresh strawberries
It smells like fresh linen out to dry
Peace looks like clear pool waters
And sounds like a lullaby
Peace feels like a smooth people in your hand.

THEMES FOR PEACE POEMS

- What is Peace?
- How is peace created?
- Describe an experience that brought you feelings of peace.
- Describe what peace would look like.
- How can you contribute to peace in your world?
- Consider/describe one or more aspects of peace: inner, family, community, environmental, global.
- What does justice have to do with peace?
- What does it feel like when you are at peace?
- What dreams do we as human beings all share?

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Share poems, identifying what aspects of peace the poem is about: inner, family, community, environmental, global.
- Have students draw one image or write one word that they think of when they think of peace. Take all of the peace words and images and create a group collage.
- Children can be encouraged to create an illustration of their poem.
- Copy the poems and put them together in a booklet that students can take home and share.

For many more Peace Day activities for children and youth, go to <http://www.peacedayphilly.org/what-can-you-do/>.