



# BE THE CHANGE

<p><b>Grade:</b> 4-6</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Be Cared For, Be Protected, Survival and Development</p>	
<p><b>Curriculum Area:</b> Aspects of Citizenship and Government in Canada, Language Arts</p> <p><b>Title:</b> <b>Words of Peace, Peaceful World</b> UN International Day of Peace – September 21</p>	
<p><b>U.N. Rights of the Child Article(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All organizations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.</li> <li>Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.</li> <li>All children have a right to live. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Teaching Strategies</b></p> <p>Session 1: Recite the chant “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me” with the students. Brainstorm what that might mean to them. Ask if they truly feel that words can never hurt them. Read the book, <i>I Am I</i> to the class, stopping at page 13 (with the cracked earth and great divide picture). Ask, “What is the power of words in this book?” “What is the colour of anger?” “How do angry words make you feel?” “Can words hurt?” Finish reading the book. Ask the following questions: “What is the colour of forgiveness?” “How does asking for forgiveness feel?” “Can words heal?”  Leave the students with the following thinking question: “If words have the power to harm and heal, what do we need to consider before we speak and write?”</p> <p>Session 2: Create a poster of the <a href="#">quote by Lao-Tse</a>, a philosopher from 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Introduce it to the class. Ask, “According to this poem, where does peace begin?” Skim the book <i>Peace One Day</i> with the class, reading the print that is part of the illustrations and summarizing the main writing. Discuss the journey that Jeremy Gilley took in his quest to create an annual day of peace. A day of cease-fire and non-violence. How is non-violence and cease-fire different from merely saying a day of peace? Discuss what a day of peace and non-violence would look and feel like in our schools, homes and community.  Leave the students with one of the following thinking questions: “What difference does having one international day of peace make in this world?” “What would you do to be peaceful on that day, and how would this make a difference?” The text of the declaration for this day can be found by <a href="#">clicking on this link</a>. As well, the UN <a href="#">CyberSchoolBus</a> has a page devoted to the International Day of Peace. Also consult the website that accompanies this book, <a href="http://www.peaceoneday.org">www.peaceoneday.org</a> for additional ideas for actions on International World Peace Day. See actions below for possible culminating lessons.</p>
<p>For specific grade-level expectations, refer to <i>Information Studies: Kindergarten to Grade 12</i> (OSLA 1999).</p>	
<p><b>Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Peace One Day</i></li> <li><i>I Am I</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Websites:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.peaceoneday.org">www.peaceoneday.org</a></li> <li><a href="#">CyberSchoolBus</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Black line Masters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Lao-Tse quote</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>BE THE CHANGE... Suggestions for Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a class poster, “If there is to be peace in our school...” following the pattern in the Lao-Tse poem.</li> <li>Petition your school principal to honour International World Peace Day in your school, create the campaign to explain it to the entire school population, create Peace Day games to play in the school yard</li> <li>Tell your family and friends about International World Peace Day and ask them to join you in creating change for peace in your home and community.</li> </ul>	