

# BE THE CHANGE

<b>Grade:</b> 4-8		<b>Topic:</b> Education and Play	
<b>Curriculum Area:</b> Language Arts		<b>Title:</b> Going to School	
<b>U.N. Rights of the Child Article(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children have a right to an education (Article 28)</li> <li>All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities (Article 31)</li> <li>Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full (Article 29)</li> </ul>		<b>Teaching Strategies</b>	
<b>Information Studies: Overall Expectations Inquiry and Research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore information using a variety of group activities</li> <li>Collaborate with others to share findings and ideas</li> <li>Synthesize findings and formulate conclusions</li> <li>Use information technology to explore information, collaborate with others, test ideas and present findings</li> </ul>		Session 1 Have students discuss what going to school means to them. Individually have students create a web of words they feel represent their view of school. In small groups have them share and expand on their word-webs. Ask students to think about what going to school in another country might be like. Some students may have attended school in another country; perhaps they could share their experience. Read <b><i>Going to School in India</i></b> to p.59, as you read invite comments, feelings and questions about the situation these children face. Have students write a journal response based on the book. ? How did this book make them feel about their own situation, about education...?	
For specific grade-level expectations, refer to <i>Information Studies: Kindergarten to Grade 12</i> (OSLA 1999).		Session 2 Revisit <b><i>Going to School in India</i></b> by discussing the statistics found opposite the Table of Contents. Using a T-Chart, <a href="#">Educational Statistics</a> , have students compare the statistics from India to those found here in Canada. In small groups assign students a few of the statistics to research and then jigsaw the class to share the information.	
<b>Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>Going to School in India</i></b></li> <li><b><i>The Diary of Ma Yan: The Struggles and Hopes of a Chinese Schoolgirl</i></b></li> </ul>		Session 3 Invite students to share some of the similarities and differences they have investigated comparing their experience of going to school in Canada, and the experience in India. Continue reading <b><i>Going to School in India</i></b> p.60-87 & 94-95, allow for open dialogue as you read. At the end of book Suresh asks the reader "What is it like where you go to school?" Have students create a collage in response. How would they portray their experience in school? They may cut images from periodicals, or find images on the internet, perhaps they could take digital pictures to record the daily routine of school in Canada. These collages could then be shared with other classes within the school.	
<b>Black Line Masters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Educational Statistics</a></li> </ul>		Session 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open the discussion with the statement "When I grow up..." ask students if any of them could finish the statement. Take some volunteers and share. Complete the reading of <b><i>Going to School in India</i></b> p.88-93 Discuss the dreams and hopes shared by the children. How are they similar/different to the dreams and hopes of your students? Partner with your Teacher-Librarian to explore some employment options in the careers section of your school library. Allow students time to research areas of interest and that suit their personal strengths. Invite students to explore the <b><i>Going to School in India</i></b> website: <a href="#">Going to School</a> and e-mail their dream into the e-card section. As a follow up read excerpts of <b><i>The Diary of Ma Yan: The Struggles and Hopes of a Chinese Schoolgirl</i></b>. Discuss the difficulties of education in China.</li> </ul>	
<b>WEBSITES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Going to School</a></li> <li><a href="#">Free the Children</a></li> </ul>			
<b>BE THE CHANGE... Suggestions for Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send a postcard to <a href="#">world leaders</a> to voice your opinion on the importance of the right to education for every child</li> <li>Share the message of how important school is with other students in your school</li> </ul>			