

BE THE CHANGE

Grade: 9-12 Curriculum Area: English	Topic: Be protected, Education and play, Freedom of Expression Title: Exploring the Power of Words
U.N. Rights of the Child Article(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures. Education should prepare children to live responsibly and peacefully in a free society 	Teaching Strategies
Information Studies: Overall Expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore information using a variety of group activities locate a variety of appropriate resources from a variety of sources collaborate with others to share findings and ideas synthesize findings and formulate conclusions 	<p>Session 1: 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?" "Can words hurt?" Finish reading the book. Ask the following questions: "How does asking for forgiveness feel?" "Can words heal?" "Can words promote peace?" Leave the students with the following thinking questions: "If words have the power to harm and heal, what do we need to consider before we speak and write?" For further thinking, "Do powerful words create leaders, or do we listen more to the words of people in power?"</p> <p>Session 2: Using the quotes black line master, divide the class up into pairs or triads. Give each group a quote folded over so only the quote is visible. Direct the groups to read the quote only and discuss what impact the words have on them. How does it make you feel? What does it make you think? Does it change any of your ideas about peace, war? Now read who is being quoted. Do you recognize the person? Do the words carry more weight? Does the quote mean more or less now that you know who was being quoted and why? At this point bring the class back together and discuss their reactions and thoughts. Discuss the book, <i>Paths to Peace</i> and the vignettes of each person that is profiled in the book. Share one profile. Challenge each student to find out 2 interesting facts about their person. Introduce them to databases, print (books, magazines, journals, newspapers) and visual media resources. Discuss if their reaction to the quotes changed after learning more about the author.</p>
For specific grade-level expectations, refer to <i>Information Studies: Kindergarten to Grade 12</i> (OSLA 1999).	
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I Am I</i> <i>Paths to Peace: people who changed the world</i> <i>Various resources/biographies databases of people who have made a difference</i> <i>Prayer for the Twenty-First Century</i> 	<p>Session 3: Begin to compile a display of the information and quotes. One effective way to display information is to create a silhouette of each person with the quotes on the outside and inner thoughts, events in their lives etc on the inside. Challenge each student to find additional quotes that they find inspiring (can be from those already profiled or include other people). Sites such as Quoteland offer the chance to search for quotes by topic or author. Repeat the process of finding information about the author. "What power do words have to inspire or incite?" "Does change begin when people of power speak or when those of conviction act?" "Why do individuals speak out?" Extension activity: Have the students look at the quotes assembled and find the similarities between ideas, words used. Create collages of those words and ideas using mixed media (see the illustrations of <i>Prayer for the Twenty-First Century</i> for ideas). Create an image that conveys the impact of the quotes.</p>
WEBSITES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quoteland 	
Black Line Masters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quotes 	
BE THE CHANGE... Suggestions for Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a website, mural, bulletin board or hallway display of the most inspiring quotes Create a quote to live by bulletin board that changes weekly, use the PA system to announce the quote each week (with permission of the Principal) 	