



TITLE	AGE RANGE	TIME
<i>Shared Peace Poem</i>	<i>11-16</i>	<i>50-60 minutes</i>

Brief Outline:

Students will reflect on a variety of perspectives on peace and write a collaborative poem about peace.

PURPOSE:

- Encourage students to express their thoughts about peace
- Build teamwork as students creatively co-create a poem
- Introduce poetry as a tool for expressing abstract concepts like peace

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Appendix One of quotes on peace (see page 4)
- Flipchart paper
- Pens and markers
- Post-it notes
- Paper or card

Instructions

INTRODUCTION (5–10 MINUTES):

- Begin by introducing the concept of ‘peace’ and explain that students will be working together to create a shared poem on peace, using each student’s feelings and beliefs.
- Explain that peace can mean:
 - An absence of violence
 - Harmony and understanding between people
 - The presence of fairness or justice in society
 - An inner feeling of calmness
- Lead a discussion asking students:
 - *Can you think of any examples of peace either in your life or in the world?*
 - *Can peace mean different things to different people? Why?*



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PEACE WORD CLOUD (10 MINUTES):

- Ask students to explore the different aspects of the concept of 'peace' in small groups of 4-8.
- Handout flipchart paper, markers, and post-it notes asking students to write the word 'peace' in the middle of the paper. Ask students to write down words, phrases, images or emotions that come to mind when they think about peace. Encourage students to ensure that each person is contributing to the word cloud.
- If time allows, ask students to share a few of the word or phrases that they have written down with the wider group.

WRITING INDIVIDUAL LINES (10 MINUTES):

- Hand out Appendix One to each table to encourage reflection on different perspectives on peace.
- Ask students to individually write down 2-4 lines. They can use the words and phrases found on the word cloud and draw inspiration from quotes found in Appendix One.
- Remind them that poems don't have to rhyme, and they can use images, sounds and feelings to explore the concept.
- Prompts for students could include:
 - If peace was a place, what would it look like?
 - How does peace feel? Can you describe it using your senses (sound, touch, sight, etc.)
 - Can you compare peace to its opposite?
 - Can you imagine peace as a journey or path? What would the different steps towards peace be?
 - Where do you think peace is most important?



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BUILDING A SHARED POEM (10 MINUTES):

- Ensure that each student has had the chance to write 2-4 lines on separate pieces of card.
- Lay the cards written by everyone in a small group on the table.
- Ask students to build a shared poem from these cards explaining that:
 - They can move the cards around
 - They can remove cards, but they must have at least one card for each student in their final poem
 - They can add linking words (and, but, either, so, however, etc.) but cannot add new sentences
- Prompts for students could include:
 - *Do any lines seem to follow one another?*
 - *Which lines would fit at the start of the poem? Which would fit at the end?*

SHARING & DISCUSSION (10-15 MINUTES):

- After the students have finished building their shared poem ask each group to present their poem to the rest of the class.
- After they have shared their poem, ask each group:
 - *How did it feel to work together on the poem?*
 - *Did hearing from other people change or influence your thoughts about peace?*

CLOSING REFLECTION (5 MINUTES):

- After the students have finished building their shared poem ask each group to present their poem to the rest of the class.



Peace Quote Gallery

Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.
— JOHN F. KENNEDY

Peace and justice are two sides of the same coin. — DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves.
— THE DALAI LAMA

Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without. — BUDDHA

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind. — MAHATMA GANDHI

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.
— MOTHER TERESA

It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it. — ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are. — HAFSAT ABIOLA

Building peace is more often about creating space, developing relationships, persevering in spite of overwhelming pessimism, and being flexible enough to respond to emerging opportunities, meagre as they may be. — JOHN PAUL LEDERACH

Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways. — THE DALAI LAMA

Inner peace begins the moment you choose not to allow another person or event to control your emotions. — PEMA CHODRON

Unless we teach children peace, someone else will teach them violence.
— COLMAN MCCARTHY

If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations. If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities. If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbours. If there is to be peace between neighbours, there must be peace in the home. If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart. — LAO TZU