

Lesson ~ Exploring diversity and equality through Music

Big Ideas:

Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.

A positive personal and cultural identity is the awareness, understanding, and appreciation of all the facets that contribute to a healthy sense of oneself.

Everyone has a unique story to share.

Core Competencies:

C I recognize that there are different points of view and can disagree respectfully.

T I can analyze my own assumptions and beliefs and consider views that do not fit with them.

PS I take action to support diversity and defend human rights and can identify how diversity is beneficial for my community, including online.



Learning Target: I can explore, analyze and reflect on messages presented in stories and song — and express my own views about important issues addressed in stories and song.

Reconnecting: Share the following clip of author Todd Parr reading *It's Okay to Be Different*. Invite students to “hear and hold onto” at least 3 messages expressed in the story, and then jot down their 3 or more take away messages on the cut-outs provided. (We will collage the cut-outs).



It's Okay to Be Different ~ Todd Parr (2:51)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s15U2Z0oQok>

Co-constructing ideas: Defining key terms ~ Invite students to think about and contribute responses to the questions, “What is diversity? What is tolerance? What is acceptance? What is equality?”

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Digging Deeper: Songwriters use music to convey messages or their point of view, or to inspire change. Some songwriters include metaphors rather than straightforward messages that might sound preachy. What is a metaphor?

Invite students to listen, view and investigate the following song with an ear and a lens for messages of valuing diversity. What words, lines or phrases in the song are most meaningful to you? Invite students to choose and jot down words, lines or phrases from the song they find meaningful on the jot notes page provided. Next, invite students to write a few sentences to describe the message, viewpoint or lesson the songwriters were trying to convey.

Everyday People ~ Sly and the Family Stone (2:23)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUUhDoCx8zc>



Partner turn and listen: *Everyday People* was written in 1968. Do you believe the message of the song is still relevant today? If so, why? Is it relevant in your school, your community, the nation, the world, or all of them? If not, why not?

Closure: Share the following clip of Todd Parr reading *Be Who You Are*. Invite students to “hear and hold onto” at least 3 messages expressed in the story, and then jot down their 3 or more take away messages on the cut-outs provided.



Be Who You Are ~ Todd Parr (2:48)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0H8WEpS4jg>