

The Change: A Reintroduction to the Oklahoma City Bombing and the Oklahoma City Memorial Kids' Marathon

Timing of Presentation: Day 1, Morning, "Understanding"

***Although the Oklahoma City Bombing and the Oklahoma City Memorial Kids' Marathon were introduced in January at the kickoff assembly, this lesson serves as a reintroduction to the Oklahoma City Bombing and an introduction to a week of hope unit. This begins a more in depth unit study of this historical event with character building themes. Day 1 would be Monday of the week of the Kids' Marathon.**

Purpose:

- Students will be reintroduced to the Oklahoma City Bombing, and the Oklahoma City Memorial Kids' Marathon. Students will be introduced to a week of hope unit. Students will make a connection between the Oklahoma City Bombing and the mile logging they have been doing in preparation for the run. The goal is for the event to take on a new, deeper, different meaning.

PASS:

Language Arts

Standard 4: Comprehension/Critical Literacy - The student will interact with the words and concepts in a text to construct an appropriate meaning.

2. Inferences and Interpretation
- c. Participate in creative response to text
3. Summary and Generalization
- b. Make generalizations about a text (e.g., theme of a story or main idea of an informational text).

Materials:

- CD of the song "The Change" by Garth Brooks
- Overhead copy, or individual copies of the lyrics to "The Change"
- Paper, pencils, crayons, markers, play dough, paint

Instruction:

1. Tell the students that you are going to play a song. While the song is playing they are to choose a medium through which to express how the song makes them feel and what it makes them think about.
2. Give students the option to free write, draw, sculpt with play dough, paint, or engage in any other creative response they want to try.
3. Tell the students that this is a no talking, serious, thinking/feeling time and that they need to respect the thinking of others.
4. Distribute copies of the lyrics or place them on the overhead projector for the students to look at during the song.
5. Play the song "The Change."

6. After it is over, give the students a few more minutes to finish their creations.
7. Start the class discussion by asking the question: What does this song mean?
 - a. What questions do you have about this song?
 - b. How did it make you feel?
 - c. What did it make you think?
 - d. What did it make you want to do?
 - e. What is the author's message to you as the listener? Do you agree?
 - f. Why do you think the author chose the title "The Change?"
8. Have each student share his/her creation and explain it.
9. Reintroduce the Oklahoma City Bombing. This discussion must be age appropriate, and emotionally appropriate for YOUR class.
 - a. Focus on the idea that a man was angry and made a very bad choice and that his choice affected the lives of many. Emphasize that a different, more positive choice could have been made.
 - b. Focus on the fact that there were survivors.
 - c. Focus on how the state and nation pulled together to heal; tell about people who came from all over to help. Tell what kids did to help heal.
 - d. Tell about the survivor tree that withstood the explosion and still stands today.
 - e. Talk about the OKC National Memorial: that it exists, where it is, what it looks like, and what it represents
 - f. MAKE IT CLEAR TO STUDENTS THAT THEY HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES AND THOSE CHOICES HELP THEMSELVES AND OTHERS! (this is a key focus for the unit and for the overall message).
 - g. Remind students that the purpose of this unit is not to dwell on the negative, but to respect and remember those who lost their lives and honor the survivors by learning about the event and taking steps in their own lives to ensure that they will not be part of something like this happening again. This is a new way to look at history: We learn about it from different perspectives to take more positive action in the future.**
10. Explain a week of hope unit. Each day they will focus on an action that they can take to help make positive changes. These will be referred to as "power actions." The culmination of this unit will be participating in the OKC Memorial Kids' Marathon to make the statement that they will not be part of violence and hurt, but be active in positive changes in the community.

- a. Today's power action is "**understanding.**"
- b. How can understanding the feelings, thoughts, ideas, emotions, and fears of others help make positive changes in our own lives and in the lives of others?
 - i. Set a class goal for being more understanding. Post this goal in the room and refer back to it.

Assessment:

- Check for understanding by asking students to repeat back to you what they got out of this morning's lesson and what it means to be understanding.

Extensions and Alternatives:

- Have students listen to the song and then work in groups to write a summary of what the author is saying. Share these summaries with the class and use them to prompt class discussion.
- If you are using this lesson model to teach another historical event, find a different song that is relevant to your historical event or the themes conveyed in your historical event. Follow the lesson format to discuss your historical event.

"The Change"

One hand
Reaches out
And pulls a lost soul from harm
While a thousand more go unspoken for
They say what good have you done
By saving just this one
It's like whispering a prayer
In the fury of a storm

And I hear them saying you'll never change things
And no matter what you do it's still the same thing
But it's not the world that I am changing
I do this so this world will know
That it will not change me

This heart
Still believes
That love and mercy still exist
While all the hatreds rage and so many say
That love is all but pointless in madness such as this
It's like trying to stop a fire
With the moisture from a kiss

And I hear them saying you'll never change things
And no matter what you do it's still the same thing
But it's not the world that I am changing
I do this so this world will know
That it will not change me

As long as one heart still holds on
Then hope is never really gone

I hear them saying you'll never change things
And no matter what you do it's still the same thing
But it's not the world that I am changing
I do this so this world we know
Never changes me

What I do is so
This world will know
That it will not change me

