



### Lesson Plan:

## "The Dreamer: The Girl Who Dreamed the War Over"

**Ages:** Primary/Elementary School

**Subject:** English Language Arts / Social Studies

**Lesson Duration:** 1-2 hours

### Objectives:

- Students will analyse the themes of hope and resilience in the face of war.
- Students will explore the impact of war on children and the role of imagination as a coping mechanism.
- Students will understand the significance of Global Goal 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).

### Materials:

- Copies of "The Dreamer: The Girl Who Dreamed the War Over"
- Whiteboard and markers
- Projector for displaying illustrations
- Pledge cards for the Peace Pledge activity
- Art supplies for creative activities

### Introduction (15 minutes):

- Begin with a brief overview of the book and its setting.
- Discuss the current relevance of the book's themes.
- Introduce Global Goal 16 and its importance.

**Guided Reading and Discussion (30 minutes):**

- Conduct a guided reading of selected passages.
- Discuss the feelings and thoughts of the main character, Torria.
- Talk about the use of imagination as a theme and how it helps Torria cope with her situation.

**Activity - Imagining Peace (20 minutes):**

- Have students draw or write about their own peaceful world, similar to how Torria dreams of peace.
- Share and discuss a few of the students' creations, focusing on common themes of peace and safety.

**Group Activity - Role-Play (20 minutes):**

- Divide the class into small groups and assign each a different scene from the book.
- Each group will prepare a short role-play to present their scene, focusing on conveying the emotions and themes.

**Peace Pledge (15 minutes):**

- Hand out pledge cards and explain the activity.
- Allow students time to write their pledges on how they can promote peace, justice, or support strong institutions in their community.
- Create a Pledge Wall in the classroom where students can hang their pledge cards.

**Reflection and Discussion (10 minutes):**

- Open the floor for students to share their thoughts on the lesson.
- Discuss how they can apply the themes of the book to their own lives.

**Homework Assignment:**

- Students will write a reflective essay on how the story of "The Dreamer" relates to current global issues and what they can do as individuals to promote peace and justice in their own communities.

**Assessment:**

- Participation in discussions and role-play activities.
- The creativity and thoughtfulness of their Imagining Peace activity.
- The reflective essay on the book's themes and their real-world application.

This lesson plan aims to not only engage students with the literature but also encourage them to think critically about its themes and how they relate to broader global issues.

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## **Supplementary activities tailored for both younger and older students:**

For **younger children**, activities should be more interactive and sensory-based, focusing on understanding emotions and simple concepts of peace and kindness. Here are some age-appropriate ideas:

### **Group Activities:**

1. **Peaceful Storytime:** A daily reading session where the book is read over a week, with each day focusing on a different part of the story, followed by a discussion of feelings and thoughts.
2. **Draw My Dream:** After reading the book, have the children draw their own peaceful dream or a happy moment from their lives, then share these dreams with the class.
3. **Friendship Circle:** Create a friendship circle where each child says something kind about another, emphasising the book's theme of compassion and community.
4. **Emotion Charades:** Play a game of charades using emotions from the book, helping children understand and express different feelings.

### **Lesson Ideas:**

1. **Peace Doves:** Craft peace doves out of paper plates or construction paper, discussing what peace means while they decorate their doves.
2. **Safe Spaces:** Create a classroom discussion around the concept of safety and what makes the students feel safe, relating it to the bomb shelter in the book.
3. **Emotion Weather Report:** Have children give a "weather report" on how they're feeling that day, using sunny, rainy, or stormy to describe their emotions.
4. **Music of Peace:** Introduce songs about peace and unity, encouraging the children to sing along or move to the music.
5. **Role-Playing Scenarios:** Set up scenarios where children act out situations that require showing empathy and resolving conflict peacefully.
6. **Comfort Corners:** Designate a corner of the room where children can go if they feel overwhelmed, similar to the protective environment of the bomb shelter in the story.
7. **Story Sequencing:** Use pictures or cards from the book for children to arrange in the order they appear in the story, helping with comprehension and narrative skills.
8. **Peaceful Yoga:** Introduce simple yoga poses and breathing exercises that children can associate with feeling calm and at peace.

9. **Gratitude Sharing:** Start or end the day with a gratitude circle where each child shares one thing they are thankful for, fostering a sense of appreciation and positivity.

10. **Puppet Show:** Create a simple puppet show adaptation of the book, allowing children to retell the story and discuss its themes in their own words.

11. **My Peaceful Place:** Encourage children to use their imagination to describe or draw their peaceful place, sharing it with the class.

12. **Kindness Role-Play:** Set up a role-play center where children can act out being kind and helpful to others, reinforcing positive social interaction.

These activities and lessons are designed to be hands-on and engaging, allowing **younger children** to explore the themes of the book in a way that is accessible and appropriate for their developmental stage.

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And here are additional ideas for lessons and group activities based on "The Dreamer: The Girl Who Dreamed the War Over" for **older students**:

#### **Group Activities:**

1. **Peace Symposium:** Students create presentations on peace efforts around the world and discuss how these efforts relate to the themes in the book.

2. **Creative Writing:** Students write short stories or poems from the perspective of another child in a different conflict zone, using Torria's hopeful outlook as inspiration.

3. **Art Project:** Students create a collaborative mural or a quilt that depicts their visions of peace, incorporating symbols and scenes from the book.

4. **Drama Workshop:** Students act out alternative endings to the book or create a short play that conveys its themes, later presenting it to another class or during a school assembly.

5. **Debate Club:** Host a debate on the effectiveness of different actions that promote peace, justice, and strong institutions, inspired by the actions mentioned in the book.

6. **Music and Peace:** Explore songs of peace and resilience from various cultures. Students can create a class playlist or even write their own song.

#### **Additional Lesson Ideas:**

1. **Historical Context:** A lesson on the history of conflict in Ukraine, providing background for the setting of the book, discussing the importance of historical context in literature.

2. **Global Citizenship:** Discuss what it means to be a global citizen and how students can take action on global issues locally.

3. **Ethics Discussion:** Engage in a philosophical discussion about the ethical considerations of war and peace, and how stories help us understand these concepts.
4. **Literature Circles:** Small groups each read a different book on a similar theme and then come together to compare and contrast the approaches to the subject matter.
5. **UN Sustainable Development Goals Workshop:** A detailed workshop on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on how children's literature can contribute to these goals.
6. **Story Mapping:** Students create visual story maps that outline the plot of "The Dreamer," including the setting, major events, conflict, and resolution, highlighting the themes of hope and resilience.
7. **Interview Role-Play:** One student takes on the role of a journalist while another is a character from the book. They role-play an interview scenario where they discuss the events and themes of the story.
8. **Digital Storytelling:** Students use digital tools to create their own visual stories or digital diaries reflecting on the themes of the book.
9. **Peace Education:** Discuss the concept of peace education and how books like "The Dreamer" can be used to teach about peace in a classroom setting.
10. **Comparative Study:** Compare "The Dreamer" to historical accounts or biographies of children in wartime, looking at similarities and differences in experiences and coping mechanisms.
11. **Letter Writing Campaign:** Students write letters to elected officials about the importance of peace and what they can do to support children in conflict zones, using the book as a reference point.

By incorporating these activities and lessons, you can create a comprehensive unit that not only explores the narrative of "The Dreamer" but also its broader implications in the real world, encouraging empathy, global awareness, and active citizenship among students.

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## Pledge Cards

The pledge cards for "The Dreamer: The Girl Who Dreamed the War Over" would serve as a tangible reminder of the commitments students make in class and could be used as part of a display to inspire ongoing conversations about peace and social responsibility.

### How to Make Your Peace Pledge:

1. **Reflect:** Think about "The Dreamer" and what peace means to you. How does peace feel, look, and sound in your imagination?
2. **Inspire:** Consider actions, big or small, that you believe could contribute to a more peaceful world. This could be as simple as reading stories like "The Dreamer" to younger children, or as ambitious as starting a community project.
3. **Write:** In the space below, commit to one specific action that you will take to promote peace, justice, or build strong institutions. Use clear, affirmative language - for example, "I will volunteer..." or "I pledge to educate myself and others about..."
4. **Share:** If you feel comfortable, share your pledge with others. Sometimes, saying your commitment out loud gives it even more strength.
5. **Act:** Remember, a pledge is more than just words—it's a promise to act. Keep this card somewhere you can see it often as a reminder of your commitment.

Your pledge can make a ripple of change. Thank you for being a peace-builder!