

Famous Peace Makers

Month: Mar.

Week #: 25

Day: b. Tues. Time: 30 min.

Fred Rogers

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Objectives/Aims

The students will: recognize the traits of a loving person as manifested in 'Mr. Rogers'; recognize that loving oneself and others creates a peaceful neighborhood or community.

Materials

Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood video, DVD or clip from the internet

Photograph

Some people don't think a kid's show is all that important, but the creator of "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood", Fred Rogers received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002 for his work.

Background

Fred Rogers, better known to young children as 'Mr. Rogers,' received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002, which is the nation's highest civilian honor. It recognized his service to children which reflected the values of kindness, compassion and learning. If two to six year old children had any kind of political power, they probably would have canonized him as a saint or conferred the Nobel Peace prize upon him.



Fred Rogers was chosen as a famous peace maker primarily because he is an adult figure that children can relate to. Additionally, his core message that children should love themselves and others is a cornerstone of what peace education is all about.

Group Activity

1. Say, "Raise your hands if you know who Fred Rogers is. Now raise your hands if you know Mr. Rogers from "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." In 2002 Fred Rogers received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the nation's highest civilian honor. We're going to watch about fifteen minutes of one of his shows to discover why he was given this honor. I know you are no longer two to five year olds, which is the target audience for this show, so I want you to watch it like a thoughtful adult would. In other words, as you watch the show, think about these things: What is it trying to teach young children? What kind of person is Mr. Rogers? What is the format of the show?" Write these questions on the board and encourage the students to take notes on the show.
2. Watch at least ten minutes of the show, including his introductory song and sketch.

Group Discussion Questions

1. What is the theme of the introductory song and what is it teaching the children?
A: Won't you be my neighbor? To care about other people.

Group Discussion Questions (continued)

2. What was the setting and format of the show?

A: It starts in Mr. Rogers' house, the viewer is 'his neighbor' and it moves into the the 'Land of Make Believe' through the magic trolley.

3. What kind of person is Mr. Rogers?

A: Patient, kind, loving, compassionate, etc.

4. Why are these personal qualities important in our world today?

A: Answers will vary. In essence, when people are good neighbors they create a safe, nurturing and loving community that benefits all of its inhabitants.

Variations/Extensions

Conclusion

Say, "Won't you be my neighbor? Sometimes in the simplest songs, in a show created for very young children, are some of the most important truths. Love yourself and love your neighbor. These are the foundational principles of peace that can create a peaceful neighborhood, community and world. Love yourself and love your neighbor."

Mar. 25 b. Tues.

Famous Peace Makers: Fred Rogers



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