

Family Paideia Seminar Plan

Text: **Peace in Adversity** by Author Unknown

Ideas, Values: Sign and Symbol, Change, Mind, Perspective

Pre-Seminar Content

Big Ideas Chat:

What is “peace of mind”? What brings you peace of mind? Share with those in your family what you do to find a place of calm when things around you are storming. Brainstorm a list together to make sure everyone has a few things on their list.

1st Read:

Read aloud the text while family and/or friends listen.

Vocabulary:

Discuss the unfamiliar words in the story. Explain what they mean, figure them out from the sentence, or look them up in a dictionary. Be sure to include the following words in your discussion: *depicting, overhead, bare, depicting, midst, fury,* and *adverse*.

2nd Read:

Look at the “Ideas and Values” listed above, as another participant in the discussion reads the text aloud for a second time. Ask everyone to focus on those “Ideas and Values” as you listen or read.

Pre-Seminar Process:

* Share why you are having the discussion.

(Sample script from our classroom Paideia Seminars: Modify to fit your household.)

*“A Paideia seminar is a collaborative, intellectual dialogue about a text, facilitated with open ended questions.”*

*“The main purpose of seminar is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the textual ideas and values, of ourselves, and of each other.”*

* Describe what you want to accomplish.
* Set a Family Goal.
* To balance the talk time
* To refer to the text
* To ask a question
* To speak out of uncertainty
* To build on others’ comments

Seminar Questions:

* Opening (Identify main ideas from the text):
  + Is it possible to have peace when the world around you is not peaceful? (Don’t share your why until after everyone has had a chance to answer.) Parents, have younger kids share first if they feel comfortable and advance by age.
  + Why did you pick the answer that you did? (Anyone can share)
* Core (Analyze textual details):
  + Why might a king challenge artists to depict peace through art?
  + Who is the best person in this story to judge the art? (Why do you think this?)
  + How would the story change if the mother bird was something else?
  + What does the author hope to teach us in this story? How do you know this?

(Anyone can share)

* Closing (Personalize and apply the ideas):
  + If you could depict peace at this moment, what would it look like and how would you represent it through art? (Why?)

Post-Seminar Process:

*“Ask each person what they liked most about the discussion.”*

* Have the family do a quick check of the discussion goal.

Post Seminar Content:

* Transition to Writing:

Review and discuss key ideas that you heard, said and thought during the family seminar.

* Brainstorm:

What medium would you choose to craft art that depicts peace?

Think back to the Big Ideas Chat about what brings you peace of mind. Would your art have a direct connection to the person, place, or thing that brings you peace?

* Writing Prompt:

Use materials from your home to create something that represents peace to you. Share it with the family and tell about what inspired you. If possible, make connections to the story and share how your art is alike or different from the artwork that “won” the king’s challenge.

This Paideia Lesson Plan was created by:

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\*Text is attached if open sourced.

Peace in Adversity

A king made an announcement to offer a prize to the artist who created the best painting depicting peace. Many painters sent the king several of their best paintings.

One of the paintings, among the various masterpieces, was of a calm lake perfectly mirroring peaceful towering snow-capped mountains. Overhead was a clear blue sky with fluffy clouds. The painting was perfect. Most people who viewed the paintings of peace from various artists, thought that it was the best among all.

But when the king announced the winner, everyone was shocked. The painting which won the prize had mountains too, but they were rugged and bare. The sky felt very angry, there was lightning, and this did not look peaceful at all. It looked like the artist had mistakenly submitted a painting depicting a storm, rather than peace.

But if one looked closely at the painting, they saw a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush, a mother bird had built her nest. In the midst of the fury of adverse weather, the bird sat on her nest in peace.

Author Unknown

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