

Family Paideia Seminar Plan

Text: **Some People** by Rachel Field

Ideas, Values: Being, Change, Relationships, Perspective

Pre-Seminar Content

Big Ideas Chat:

How do relationships change over time? What makes one connection last and another fade? Have a brief chat about a school or work relationship that is strengthening and one that is weakening. Share the proverb “absence makes the heart grow fonder” and draw connections to what was shared. How are your kids feeling about being away from school?

1st Read:

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

Vocabulary:

Check to see if there are any words that need to be talked about before the discussion begins. Listeners or readers can use context clues to help figure out possible definitions or use a dictionary or device to get a formal definition.

2nd Read:

Allow another participant in the discussion to read the text aloud. Make note to focus on the “Ideas and Values” listed above 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):
  + What is the first word that came to mind when you heard this poem? Have younger kids share first if they feel comfortable and advance by age. (Don’t share your why until after everyone has had a chance to answer.)
  + Why did you pick the word that you did? (Anyone can share)
* Core (Analyze textual details):
  + What is it about people in our lives that can make our thoughts and feelings change? Why? (Anyone can share)
  + Why do you think the author made a connection to thinking and nature?
  + Can we control the influence others have on our thinking? How do you know this?
* Has someone ever made you feel tired inside? Has someone ever made your mind shine? What do you remember or think about that?
* Closing (Personalize and apply the ideas):
  + If you could share this poem with anyone, who would it be? (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/Family Activity:

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

How might this poem change if there was another stanza?

* Brainstorm:

How might you go about selecting a few extra lines?

Do you want the poem to change course or continue in the same style?

* Writing Prompt:

Individually, draft another few lines to the poem. Depending on age or comfort write or dictate a few lines and share your thoughts as a family. Come up with a collaborative third stanza.

If possible, share this plan with another family including your 3rd stanza and ask them to share back with you their third stanza.

This Paideia Lesson Plan was created by:

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Organization: National Paideia Center

\*Text is attached if open sourced.

***Some People*** by Rachel Field

Isn’t it strange some people make

You feel so tired inside,

Your thoughts begin to shrivel up

Like leaves all brown and dried!

But when you’re with some other ones,

It’s stranger still to find

Your thoughts as thick as fireflies

All shiny in your mind!

*This poem is in the public domain.*

\*Text is cited if it needs to be procured.

<https://allpoetry.com/poem/11892942-Some-People-by-Rachel-Lyman-Field>