

Brother Wolf Storytelling

Study Guide for the Assembly Program “Peace Tales”

Program Description

Eric James Wolf presents an educational and exciting program introducing students to the principles of peace. The program touches on seven skills that lead to greater peace: active listening, self-responsibility, elderhood, stewardship, creativity, humility, and positive humor. Wolf’s stories teach Learning Goals for all grade levels, as defined in the Ohio Educational Learning Goals Standards of the Ohio Department of Education.

Wolf will tell the following stories (and others) during the program:

”Slops,” a tale from Denmark in which we learn how to be good neighbors.

”The Old Man and the Bird,” a story from France teaching us that our elders deserve respect.

”The Last Drop of Honey,” a folktale from China in which we are reminded that ignoring problems doesn’t help us deal with them.

”The Four Wise People and the Tiger,” an ancient myth from India stressing that knowledge comes with responsibility.

Discussion

Peace stories have a greater impact on students when they have already spent some time discussing the principles of peace: active listening, self-responsibility, elderhood, stewardship, creativity, humility, and positive humor. It is recommended that you spend ten to twenty minutes a day for seven days before the program talking with your class about how they view each of these skills.

The Skills

Active listening - To be an active listener, allow the speaker’s words to reach deep inside.

Self-responsibility - To take responsibility for oneself, let peace begin on the inside and radiate outward.

Elderhood - To demonstrate elderhood, take responsibility for respecting those around you.

Stewardship - To be stewards, take responsibility for caring for the things and places around you.

Creativity - To be creative, understand that we are not locked in a simple win/lose situation. We can always arrive at a third choice.

Humility - To be humble, enjoy the gift of being equal in importance to everyone else.

Positive humor - To be positively humorous, laugh in a way that builds people up instead of tearing them down.

Additional Assignment

Have the students write a short story in which the characters overcome a problem using one of these seven basic techniques.

Audience Expectations

1. Students should not talk at any time during the program unless called upon by the performer.
2. Students should sit on the floor with their legs crossed and their hands in their own personal space.