

# “Peace Begins with Me”

Written by Cheryl Melody

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**Dedicated to teaching character-building values of respect for self, respect for others, anti-bullying, conflict-resolution, effective dialogue, diversity celebration, personal and global consciousness, respect for our earth, empowerment and HOPE!**

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Thank you for choosing to perform “***Peace Begins with Me.***” It is vital that we teach children concrete ways to learn how to “**BE Peace.**” The creative arts serve as pathways that can reach the hearts and minds of children, and I thank you for implementing the messages within this play. By “Being Peace,” the vibration of love and respect for humankind can resound throughout the world, and it all begins within each one of us. Each of us CAN make a difference by what we say, think, do and feel. May Peace Prevail on Earth. **Cheryl Melody**

## Script Guide:

This play can be edited and interpreted freely without my permission. Regional or modern day “slang” can be integrated to help children relate to the script. Because of this unique and flexible script, a definite duration for this play cannot be firmly indicated. The duration is dependent on your own creative choices. I encourage you to make this play your own, according to your personal focus and population needs. Most characters are not described in detail deliberately, and when they are described specifically, this too can be altered. Feel free to add or delete characters and words. If there is someone who can integrate Sign Language, for example, please add this character to the play. Children who have special needs, children who are handicapped in any way, should be represented. Children and adults from different cultures help to create the entire flavor of this work. Above all, this play is meant to embrace an inclusive philosophy.

Each character is listening TO the story as told by the narrators, as well as being IN the story. Narrators tell some of the story AND react to the characters dramatizing the story. The narrator parts are lengthy. You may want to divide the narrator parts among more children, enroll some adults to assume the parts, or have children read the words, rather than memorize all the words.

Flashback scenes from the past are gently woven into various scenes. Costumes, props and scenery will depend on the amount of your support network, and can be very basic. Settings are simple: Act I: Playground; Act II: Outside of David’s home; Act III: Classroom. Children can be encouraged to place their artwork, essays, poems, raps, songs and murals on peace throughout the room beforehand. They can create dances and sing additional songs that mirror visions of being peaceful within, and of hope, peace, love, harmony, respect, global consciousness. Feel free to integrate adults as well as children, and there are non-speaking roles as well as speaking roles. Many of the songs are contained in the *World Peace-The Children’s Dream* songbook and its accompanying CD. Many new songs on “being” peace can also be found on the CD, “*Celebrate Peace!*” The songs in “Celebrate Peace!” are simple and teachable, and each song contains easy basic chords on the piano or guitar for accompaniment.

There is an additional rap/chant called “*Earth Rap*” within the script. I’ve also included 2 additional raps recently composed and performed at my concerts. The CD’s serve as guides to the script. If you are celebrating a particular day—*Earth Day, Martin Luther King Day, International Children’s Day, Peace Day*...freely edit the text content. Thank you again for doing this important work. **Cheryl Melody**



## ***"Peace Begins with Me"***

**A Musical Play celebrating the ideal of personal and global peace, and content that encourages children to know that they CAN make a difference in the world by what they do, say, think and feel.**

### **Cast of Characters:**

**Narrator 1**

**Narrator 2**

**Main characters: Rosa, Maya, Shamice, WeiLing  
Johnny, Amani, David, Mohammed, Jason**

**Bullies: Georgie Green, Luther, Chuck, Daphne, Gloria**

**Child 1**

**Child 2**

**Child 3**

**Other Children (non-speaking roles)**

**Reader of the Letter to "The People of the World"**

**Reader of the Letter from "The People of the World"**

**Mrs. Rosen, Teacher**

**Mr. King, Teacher**

**Other Teachers (non-speaking roles)**

**Parent 1**

**Parent 2**

**Mr. Casey-Parent**

**Mrs. Burgette-Parent**

**Other Parents/Grandparents- (non-speaking roles)**

**"Peace Begins with Me" Chorus**

**Rhythm Instrument Peace Band**

**"Peace Begins with Me"**  
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Celebrates the excitement of diversity, and unfolds into a musical story about several amazing children from different backgrounds and abilities. These children learn how to respect each other, and then bring that awareness to their peers, home and neighborhood. Together they create positive changes, and gradually discover ways to enlist support from parents, teachers and media so that the concept of "peace begins with me" becomes a unified vision.

**Act I: Outdoor Playground Scene.** Children gradually begin to notice narrators talking about them, and one by one come forward out of the playground scene to tell their story to the audience.

**Narrator 1:** (Talks to the audience) Thank you for joining us, because we'd like to tell you a story about some kids that made something amazing happen. (Gestures to the children near him) These kids. Now before we tell you what amazing things they did together, first let me say that these kids did not always get along.

**Narrator 2:** (nods in agreement) That's right. They used to tease each other for all kinds of reasons-having a different skin color, a different religion, a disability, for the way they couldn't speak English clearly...

**Narrator 1:** ...or for being too tall, too short, too fat, too skinny, too smart, not smart enough, too rich, too poor, too shy, too loud, for being a girl, for being a boy...I mean it was awful for awhile between them! All they did was tease, gossip and bully!

**Mohammed:** (The 9 kids overhear the narrators and step forward) That's right, it WAS awful! I just moved here from another country, and the kids weren't nice to me at all; they didn't include me in anything, teased me all the time.

**WeiLing:** In my family we speak Chinese, and some kids didn't want to come over. I felt so left out.

**Rosa:** Well, I was too EMBARRASSED to have kids come over and meet MY family. They just fight ALL the time! And I would pick fights with some of you so that you wouldn't like me and WANT to come over my house.

**David:** And in my family, our customs are different than most of yours. I really didn't know HOW to get included...and ...still be me.

**Amani:** Well, none of you talked to ME at first, cuz you didn't know what to do with a blind guy I guess.

**Maya:** Not true, Amani. I liked you right away, but didn't know what I should do to make you feel comfortable. (frowns) Ya know...I had a hard time too at the beginning of the year. Most of you didn't even give me a CHANCE to be your friend, and I am not even sure why...

**Shamice:** Well as for me...I know that I kinda had a chip on my shoulder at first. I didn't think you would even GIVE me a chance. I just experienced so much prejudice in my OTHER school, with kids calling me all kinds of stereotype names...I just thought that YOU were goin' to be the same way.

**Johnny:** (guarded) Yeah, I **STILL** keep to myself a lot...for my **OWN** reasons. Think it is just better that way.

**Jason:** Well, I used to be just shy, and if you didn't talk to me, I usually didn't talk to you. I just stuck to myself and did my thing... 'cept now, (smiles) you can't keep me quiet! (all the kids laugh)

**Maya:** I'm so glad we get along better now.

**All:** Ya, me too!

**CHARACTERS AND CHORUS: OPTIONAL SONG:**  
"STAND PROUD" from "Celebrate!" CD Track 5, Key: A minor

(They all resume various activities, continuing to listen to narrators at times, and then looking over with interest as they hear Georgie and his friends arguing with each other on the playground)

**Georgie:** (to Luther and Chuck) **Don't MESS with me, you guys!**

**Luther and Chuck:** Oo, we're so scared (mocking him)

**Gloria** (Pushes Daphne,). Ya, don't mess with Georgie **OR** me.

**Daphne:** Hey, quit pushing.

**Gloria:** No, **YOU** quit pushing **ME**. Loser.

**Daphne:** (Sees the other kids watching them). What are you all looking at?

**Better be careful, or we'll all come after you.**

**Georgie, Luther, Chuck, Gloria:** (Snicker; hands on hips or arms folded) Ya, watch out.

(They silently continue to act out their antagonism with gestures)

**Jason:** Oh, cut it out you guys. Why don't you stop bugging each other and us and just come over and join us?

**Bullies:** No way!

**Mrs. Rosen:** (Walks over to them) I think you better come inside for awhile and cool down.

**Mr. King:** I'll take them in, Mrs. Rosen.

**Mrs. Rosen:** Thank you, Mr. King. (They exit).

**Song and Spoken word; rhythmic rap tempo**

**THE NO BULLY RAP-SONG**

Written by Cheryl Melody

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**CHORUS:**

Skit Skat dittin dat, what do you think of that  
Dittin dattin dittin, it's the no bully rap  
Bully, Gossip, tease? Not a cool way!  
Gotta watch what we do and think and say...

I've got feelings, you've got feelings, everyone's got 'em too  
Let's find some ways to make things right by what we say and do  
Respect yourself, respect each other, try to get along  
Come and join the other side,  
It's the no bully (no teasing, no gossip) song!

Being a bully, being a tease  
Don't be that way, please oh please  
Cuz it makes for mad feelings, sad as can be  
Drags our world down, can't you see that...

A kid can only take so much of mean words and angry touch  
Some people might be different, they might NOT "fit in,"  
But teasing them is a NO WIN! (CHORUS)

The nicer you are to yourself,  
The less you'll pick on somebody else  
And no body can take away your hopes or your dreams  
Keep them alive as hard as it seems.

You might have money, or you might be broke  
But we're all the same with a thing called HOPE  
Hopes are the dreams alive in your mind  
Discover all you can be, that's a treasure only YOU have the power to find! (CHORUS)

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**Narrator 2: (shakes head in disgust) Well, to make a long story short, little by little some of the teachers found ways to help EVEN the bullies of the school ...although you wouldn't know it by the way they were acting before. You see...as everyone got to know each other better, they began to see that they had lots in common.**

**Narrator 1: LOTS of the same feelings, thoughts, dreams, hopes, wishes, fears...**

**Narrator 2: And now...even though some of the kids could STILL feel more comfortable, most of them like to hang around together, act really silly, and well...just have a real good time.**

**Narrator 1: A REAL good time MOST of the time...as you can see (some of the kids are playing in the background). But on this ONE day for some strange reason, a few of the kids got into a VERY serious kind of mood.**