

“Peace Begins with Me”

3-Act Musical Play for Elementary through Middle School Grades
Written by Cheryl Melody, B.M.Ed., M.A. © All Rights Reserved.

www.cherylmelody.com/more4kids.html

Dedicated to Non Bullying, Ways to Teach How to “BE” Peace, Effective Dialogue, Respect for Self, Each Other and the Earth, Empathy, Sensitivity, Caring, Diversity Celebration, Conflict-Resolution, Hope, Self-Esteem, Empowerment, Personal & Global Awareness, the power of Each Person Making a Difference, Teamwork!

Thank you for choosing to perform “*Peace Begins with Me.*” It is vital that we teach children concrete ways 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 can have 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: (Please change, add, or delete these characters and the words to this full script according to your own personal situations and needs)

**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 that is sent to the United Nations

**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 EARTH CHORUS
PEACE BEGINS WITH ME EARTH BAND**

"Peace Begins with Me" Excerpt
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A Note to you from Cheryl Melody, B.M.Ed., M.A.
Playwright/Composer/Recording & Performing Artist, Peace Troubadour

Thank you sincerely for your interest and the work that you do with children.

Please log onto www.cherylmelody.com/more4kids.html to purchase the complete "PEACE BEGINS WITH ME" Script containing ACT I, II and III.

You will also receive the appropriate CDs, Sheet music and Songbooks in the PEACE BEGINS WITH ME PACKAGE.

The following short excerpt has the intention of providing a taste of the quality and meaning this play can provide for your children and environment.

In my 30 years of experience as an educator, the Process towards your school performance will serve as a mirror of the goal of the play itself: Teamwork, conflict-resolution, respect for each other. The process is equally as important as the finished product and performances.

As the teacher and director of your play, you have my complete permission to change the text and characters to suit your population, needs and abilities. No royalties are asked.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Cheryl Melody, Peace Troubadour, Educator, Playwright www.cherylmelody.com

"PEACE BEGINS WITH ME"
A THREE ACT MUSICAL PLAY WITH IMPORTANT MESSAGES

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 peace becomes a unified vision.

THE PEACE BEGINS WITH ME PLEDGE Spoken by the "Peace Begins with Me" Cast

**I Know that Peace Begins with Me and that I can be the changes I want in the world!
I know that I can be Peace Begins with Me ...
Inside Myself, In my Home, School, Neighborhood, on Mother Earth, Everywhere I Go
I choose to speak words that are kind to myself and you;
I choose to think thoughts that...**

Cheryl Melody's Note: (The Full PEACE BEGINS WITH ME PLEDGE is included in the complete 3 act musical. Please log onto: www.cherylmelody.com/more4kids.html)

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 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.

Maya, Johnny, WeiLing, Shamice:

THE NO BULLY RAP-SONG SUNG BY THE PEACE BEGINS WITH ME EARTH CHORUS:

THE NO BULLY RAP-SONG

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Resources: CD and Sheet Music

“Celebrate!” CD Track 8 www.cherylmelody.com; chermelody@aol.com