



LESSON PLAN

Teaching Artist: Libby Mislan/ Samira Sadeque **School Year:** 2021-22 **Program:** Homer 2 Hip Hop
Residency/Workshop Title: Won't You Celebrate Me? / "I dream a world" poems
School: PS 69Q **Grade:** 5th **Time length:** 45 minutes **Lesson #:** 5

Lesson Title: "I dream a world" poems

Brief description of the lesson: Students will listen to Langston Hughes' poem "I dream a world," learn about its connections to MLK Jr's "I Have A Dream" speech, and write their own poems inspired by this lineage of visionary freedom dreamers.

OBJECTIVE: *What is the purpose of learning this? How does it connect to a Big Idea?*

The purpose of learning this is to connect students to a long lineage of poets and activists who have used poetry and oral traditions to articulate their visions for the future, and change the world. By connecting the dots between poetry and speeches/sermons within the African American tradition, it connects to the big idea: "Different cultures have specific forms and traditions associated with poetry and oral art forms."

MATERIALS: *What materials/resources/tools/instruments are needed to teach this lesson?*

We will need to use the SmartBoard to share the audio of this crowdsourced "I dream a world" poem:

<https://www.npr.org/2021/01/28/960688815/this-is-our-dream-a-crowdsourced-poem-to-inspire-hope>

We will also share this audio clip, which shares the connection between Langston Hughes' poem and MLK's speech, and an invitation from author Kwame Alexander to write "I dream a world" poems.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/01/18/956827920/poetry-challenge-honor-mlk-by-describing-how-you-dream-a-world>

ENGAGEMENT: *How will you initially engage students' attention?*

We will begin with an inquiry into the historical lineage of "I dream a world" poems following the dialogue before.

Ask students: who was MLK Jr.? (He was a minister and social activist who fought for civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience. He fought for things like Black peoples' right to vote, desegregation, labor rights, and many other basic rights.)

Does anyone know the name of his most famous speech? ("I have a dream" 1963.)

What a lot of people don't know is that MLK's speech was inspired by poetry! It was inspired by a poem written in 1943 by Langston Hughes. (Langston Hughes was a poet and social activist who is known as one of the leaders of the Harlem Renaissance, which was a period of art-making in the 1920s when Black artists in Harlem were doing really exciting things with music, dance, theater, visual art & poetry.)

Let's listen to how Dr. King's "I have a dream speech" and this Langston Hughes poem are connected. (Listen to Kwame Alexander on the NPR podcast: 1:05→ 2:10- see link in "materials" section)

MODEL/DEMONSTRATION: *What will you do? Model? Demo a process or technique? Think aloud? Look/listen/read an example of the art form you'll be teaching?*

"I dream a world" poems will be modeled through listening to a crowdsourced "I dream a world" on NPR's Morning Edition.

On this podcast, they asked people from all over the world to write their own lines of poetry that begin with "I dream a world." Here is an excerpt from that poem!

(Listen to crowdsourced poem from 2:00- 3:20—> see link in "materials" section.)

GUIDED PRACTICE: *How will students practice the new learning? How will they be guided?*

As a class, we will develop a collective brainstorm around the question: "what do you want to see **MORE** of, in our future world? What would we like to see **LESS** of?"

From this brainstorm, we will write several sample lines of poetry as a class, each beginning with the phrase "I dream a world where..." We will discuss together how to draw out vivid images.

INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION: *How will students explore the new learning on their own? As individuals, in pairs, in small groups?*

Students will be given 8-10 minutes to engage with the writing prompt independently in their journals.

Prompt: What do you dream of for the future world we are building together? What do you imagine more of, or less of? Write 3-6 lines that begin with "I dream a world where..."

SHARE/CLOSURE:

How will students share out to demonstrate their understanding of the teaching point? Will they reflect or review? Ask questions? Is there an assignment to complete before next class

Students will each be asked to put a star next to their favorite line from their poem. Each student will read their favorite line out loud, in succession, to form a class ensemble poem.

(Later on, several students will work further with this poem in small groups to develop it as an ensemble poem for the final showcase.)