

Appendix #5: Students' feedback about the project

a. Information gathered by Sarah one week before the final performance – from her journal.

"We will incorporate this script into one of the songs. The first list is the concepts that we embrace. The second list are some of things that we have accomplished since September with this class to build peace."

1st list

- We can build peace by looking for ways to help others in need.
- We can build peace by caring for our planet.
- We can build peace by looking for compromise.
- We can build peace by forgiving.
- We can build peace by treating others the way we want to be treated.
- We can build peace by showing respect.

2nd list:

- We can build peace by feeding the hungry.
- We can build peace by raising money for cancer research.
- We can build peace by gathering resources and welcoming refugees to our city.
- We can build peace by planting trees.
- We can build peace by joining to make a difference and encouraging each other.
- We can build peace by singing and sharing stories.

b. On the *morning of the final performance*, after the students heard the story read in class for the third time, Sarah asked them what they had gotten out of the project. *Several of their comments were about peace – here are representative examples:*

- *many different ways of building peace*
- *unity/together/peace*
- *peace can be in any situation or circumstance -- more than just countries*
- *it doesn't have to be big -- peace can happen in small ways*
- *we change how we see the world*
- *peace can be shown in different ways including singing to show how much we care about each other*

c. **Feedback information I gathered in a 30-minute session with the students – first thing on the Monday morning following the final performance.**

I made some brief comments to start: their information on the questionnaire will be anonymous; anything they'd like to say about the project will be very useful – there are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers; they don't need to worry about spelling (actually, their spelling was excellent); and their information will be most valuable to help other people to know what they thought about the project and what they learned from it. They wrote (and later spoke) their feedback seriously and thoughtfully.

(total students today = 21 Monday, 2 May 2016)

Notes: In questions 1 and 2 the answers are *quantitative*.

The other questions produced *qualitative* information. Students wrote their answers. For each of those questions: (i) I have divided their answers into what seem to me to be *categories of meaning*; (ii) and following the *categorized* lists of answers can be found all the (*uncategorized*) answers given by the students.

In no question on the questionnaire itself did I use the word 'peace'.

Student comments about Hands United for Peace

Please do not write your name.

1. How interesting was the project for you?

<i>Please circle your answer.</i>	not at all interesting	a little bit interesting	< half-way > betw. these	pretty interesting	very interesting
		6	2	11	2

Note: Two students put their circles halfway between 'a little bit interesting' and 'pretty interesting'

2. The project had 5 parts:	banner	story	soundscape for the story	songs	public presentation
<i>Draw a circle around your favourite part of the project.</i>					
	15	3	6	6	1

Note: 7 circled more than one // I had told students it was ok to circle more than one

Note: *The rest of the questions ask students to write their answers.*

3. What is the main lesson that you learned from the story (*Old Turtle and the Broken Truth*)?

Note: some answers have been put in more than one category

everyone

- > to include everyone XX
- > everyone is loved
- > everybody is equal XXX (note: one added, 'in a good way')
- > everyone should be treated the same
- > nobody is better and nobody is worse

making peace

- > to include everyone
- > to share with others
- > even war can be cured by the smallest, shortest or loneliest person in the world who depends on peace
- > everyone should be treated the same
- > you should care more about other people
- > you should remember that one big thing is part of many little things
- > you shouldn't look at the differences between you and a person -- look at the things you have in common
- > anyone can make peace, like the little girl who brought peace by bringing the other half of the truth to the tower
- > the lesson is don't get caught up on one thing and make war and hate people who are different -- you need to see how everything is special
- > peace takes time

values // attitudes

- > to share with others
- > everyone is loved
- > everybody is equal XXX (note: one added, 'in a good way')
- > it doesn't matter if you're different
- > nobody is better and nobody is worse
- > you shouldn't be greedy
- > you shouldn't judge people
- > everyone should be treated the same
- > that you should love people, no matter how different they are from you

(categories continue on next page)

thinking about others // treating others

- > everyone is loved
- > everybody is equal XXX (note: one added, 'in a good way')
- > it doesn't matter if you're different
- > nobody is better and nobody is worse
- > you shouldn't judge people
- > everyone should be treated the same
- > you shouldn't look at the differences between you and a person -- look at the things you have in common
- > that you should love people, no matter how different they are from you
- > everyone should love each other

general analysis

- > you should remember that one big thing is part of many little things
- > even war can be cured by the smallest, shortest or loneliest person in the world who depends on peace
- > I learned more about peace
- > I'm not really sure -- it's really complex
- > anyone can make peace, like the little girl who brought peace by bringing the other half of the truth to the tower
- > the lesson is don't get caught up on one thing and make war and hate people who are different -- you need to see how everything is special
- > peace takes time

all answers

- > to include everyone // to share with others
- > even war can be cured by the smallest, shortest or loneliest person in the world who depends on peace
- > everyone is loved
- > everybody is equal
- > it doesn't matter if you're different // nobody is better and nobody is worse
- > you shouldn't be greedy // you shouldn't judge people
- > everyone should be treated the same
- > you should care more about other people
- > you should remember that one big thing is part of many little things
- > include everyone
- > you shouldn't look at the differences between you and a person -- look at the things you have in common
- > everyone is equal
- > everybody is the same (in a good way)
- > I learned more about peace
- > I'm not really sure -- it's really complex
- > that it takes a practice or two -- it will probably be a good performance
- > anyone can make peace, like the little girl who brought peace by bringing the other half of the truth to the tower
- > that you should love people, no matter how different they are from you
- > everyone should love each other
- > the lesson is don't get caught up on one thing and make war and hate people who are different -- you need to see how everything is special
- > peace takes time

4. What are two valuable things you learned from being part of the project?

Note: some answers have been put in more than one category

making peace

- > peace can be made in small ways, not just stopping something -- and that's world wide
- > how to build peace
- > how to show peace
- > we should make peace, not war
- > you can make peace by doing small things
- > there are many different things you can do to bring peace, like raising banners and singing songs
- > we should be more aware about peace because of the things that are happening in Syria etc.
- > one person can make a difference in peace
- > you have to be patient and be peaceful
- > always try to build peace
- > there are thousands of ways to build peace
- > singing is one of the best ways to build peace
- > peace can be created in many ways and in many different situations
- > how important peace is
- > how we can make the world more peaceful
- > peace can be anywhere
- > peace happens from just being nice
- > we can make peace by entertaining
- > (we can make peace by...) making somebody smile -- feels like peace
- > peace is important

local community // wider world

- > I learned about PeaceQuest -- I didn't know about it before
- > we should be more aware about peace because of the things that are happening in Syria etc.
- > elders are leaders and not always older than you
- > how we can make the world more peaceful
- > peace can be anywhere
- > we should make peace, not war
- > peace can be made in small ways, not just stopping something -- and that's world wide
- > peace can be created in many ways and in many different situations
- > the smallest idea can change the world
- > enjoy your work

attitudes // values

- > we should celebrate that we're different
- > always be nice
- > people should care more about other people
- > (people should) care about the world
- > no one is better than anyone
- > you must have trust

(categories continue on next page)

treating others

- > we should celebrate that we're different
- > with people, look at the things you have in common
- > always be nice
- > people should care more about other people
- > peace happens from just being nice
- > (we can make peace by...) making somebody smile -- feels like peace
- > listen to what other people have to say
- > you must have trust

ingredients of the project

- > there are many different things you can do to bring peace, like raising banners and singing songs
- > the banner
- > the songs
- > you can use music to tell a story
- > singing is one of the best ways to build peace
- > how to make new sounds
- > different ways to tell a message
- > I liked that we did it as a story
- > in stead of doing one thing, we worked on multiple things
- > *that it takes a practice or two -- it will probably be a good performance* (from q. #3 -- fits here better)

all answers

- > peace can be made in small ways, not just stopping something, and that's world wide // I learned about PeaceQuest -- I didn't know about it before
- > how to build peace // how to show peace
- > we should make peace, not war // we should celebrate that we're different
- > you can make peace by doing small things // there are many different things you can do to bring peace, like raising banners and singing songs
- > the 1st was the banner // the 2nd was the songs
- > we should be more aware about peace because of the things that are happening in Syria etc.
- > one person can make a difference in peace // elders are leaders and not always older than you
- > ? // ? (2 question marks were written)
- > you can use music to tell a story
- > you have to be patient and be peaceful // with people, look at the things you have in common
- > always try to build peace // always be nice
- > there are thousands of ways to build peace // singing is one of the best ways to build peace
- > people should care more about other people // ...and care about the world
- > how to make new sounds // different ways to tell a message
- > I liked that we did it as a story // in stead of doing one thing, we worked on multiple things
- > no one is better than anyone // peace can be created in many ways and in many different situations
- > how important peace is // how we can make the world more peaceful
- > peace can be anywhere // peace happens from just being nice
- > the smallest idea can change the world // we can make peace by entertaining / making somebody smile -- feels like peace
- > listen to what other people have to say // enjoy your work
- > peace is important // you must have trust

5. What would you say to another school that was thinking about doing this project?

Note: some answers have been put in more than one category

ingredients of the project

- > the banner and the singing were fun!
- > the soundscape will make you feel like you're part of the story
- > make sure you have the right paints for the banner
- > it was really good, but if you're not patient or you don't like standing up, you probably won't like it
- > don't hang a banner on a windy day
- > the songs are fun but the soundscape isn't that fun
- > I don't prefer it myself, because I don't like singing, and I didn't remember what to do half the time
- > *it takes a practice or two -- it will probably be a good performance* (from q. #3 -- fits here better)

likely outcomes

- > it's a great opportunity to teach others to learn about peace
- > you should always be yourself and don't be anyone else
- > always think about being kind and generous
- > you can sing with us
- > I would say they should try out this project if they were not having much peace, so this project would be more effective
- > it's helping but not that much
- > 1 thing can make a difference
- > they should try to build peace in their school (to see how peace can change the community)
- > it's a great way to get your class working together

personal assessments -- general

- > it was nerve-wracking but fun
- > it was really fun XXXX
- > a little bit boring
- > do it XX
- > it will be useful and very educational
- > it is a team project, but there are some parts that is more one person
- > good luck!
- > I would say I'm not sure about this project because for peace there has to be war
- > it's helping but not that much
- > they should try to build peace in their school (to see how peace can change the community)

personal assessments -- specific

- > participating is always good
- > be peaceful
- > it was really good, but if you're not patient or you don't like standing up, you probably won't like it
- > I think they could have talked more about peace and less about being 'perfect'
- > I don't prefer it myself, because I don't like singing, and I didn't remember what to do half the time

all answers

- > it was nerve-wracking but fun
- > it was really fun // a little bit boring // the banner and the singing were fun!
- > it's a great opportunity to teach others to learn about peace
- > participating is always good // and be peaceful
- > do it // it will be useful and very educational
- > you should always be yourself and don't be anyone else // always think about being kind and generous
- > it is a team project, but there are some parts that is more one person
- > it is a very fun project
- > it's very fun
- > it's really fun // the soundscape will make you feel like you're part of the story
- > good luck! // make sure you have the right paints for the banner
- > it was really good, but if you're not patient or you don't like standing up, you probably won't like it // I think they could have talked more about peace and less about being 'perfect'
- > don't hang a banner on a windy day
- > do it
- > the songs are fun but the soundscape isn't that fun
- > I would say I'm not sure about this project because for peace there has to be war
- > you can sing with us
- > I would say they should try out this project if they were not having much peace, so this project would be more effective
- > it's helping but not that much // but 1 thing can make a difference
- > they should try to build peace in their school (to see how peace can change the community)
- > it's a great way to get your class working together // but I don't prefer it myself, because I don't like singing, and I didn't remember what to do half the time

(question # 5 continues on next page)

>> What changes in the project would you tell them to make?

Note: some answers have been put in more than one category

ingredients of the project

- > they should have more practices for the singing and soundscape, because they changed it every time we practised
- > stop stopping in the middle of the soundscape and changing it
- > change a few things in the soundscape
- > some kids are shy -- don't force kids to go on stage and do the soundscape!
- > some kids don't like singing either, so don't make them sing!
- > more practices
- > use chairs for us to sit on
- > do another book maybe?
- > look at the weather on internet for the next days
- > nothing -- but don't put up the banner on a bad day
- > use fabric paint for the banner
- > while raising the banner, we could have sung songs about being together
- > more songs
- > do different songs
- > have rock and roll in the music
- > I would like it if we had more songs
- > I don't think we needed the choir
- > do all of the singing before the story and soundscape
- > no more adult choir

process of teaching and learning

- > they should have more practices for the singing and soundscape, because they changed it every time we practised
- > I felt very pressured and unsure about what to do
- > ask their students what to do
- > stop stopping in the middle of the soundscape and changing it
- > they could have talked more about what peace is and why we need peace, and less about being perfect
- > I would like the makers to actually use the suggestions so everybody is into the project
- > not to change things so much
- > some kids are shy -- don't force kids to go on stage and do the soundscape!
- > some kids don't like singing either, so don't make them sing!

outreach to wider community

- > put it on the news
- > we could make the project bigger -- like if we start a petition and send it to City Hall or the Prime Minister

(categories continue on next page)

general comments about making 'changes'

- > ask their students what to do -- but not the same things we did
- > nothing! the project was great!
- > change everything, because you don't want to do everything over and over again
- > nothing -- but don't put up the banner on a bad day

all answers

- > they should have more practices for the singing and soundscape, because they changed it every time we practised -- and I felt very pressured and unsure about what to do
- > change a few things in the soundscape // look at the weather on internet for the next days
- > put it on the news
- > ask their students what to do // but not the same things we did
- > more songs
- > we could make the project bigger -- like if we start a petition and send it to City Hall or the Prime Minister
- > stop stopping in the middle of the soundscape and changing it
- > do different songs
- > have rock and roll in the music
- > they could have talked more about what peace is and why we need peace, and less about being perfect
// I don't think we needed the choir
- > nothing! the project was great!
- > do all of the singing before the story and soundscape
- > change everything, because you don't want to do everything over and over again
- > more practices
- > I would like it if we had more songs
- > I would like the makers to actually use the suggestions so everybody is into the project
- > nothing -- but don't put up the banner on a bad day
- > not to change things so much // use chairs for us to sit on
- > while raising the banner, we could have sung songs about being together
- > some kids are shy -- don't force kids to go on stage and do the soundscape! // some kids don't like singing either, so don't make them sing! // do another book maybe? // use fabric paint for the banner
- > no more adult choir

After they finished filling-out the questionnaire, I asked them to write (on the back of their sheet of paper) how they would complete the following sentence:

In our search for peace we need to....

Note: some answers have been put in more than one category

personal relationships with others

- > find trust in others
- > help each other XXXXX
- > get together
- > work together
- > be kind // make acts of kindness XXX
- > be nice
- > start paying attention to arguments and things of the sort, and try to make it more positive
- > stay with a person to find how they act

actions/relationships in the wider world

- > get together
- > work together
- > spread the world all around the globe to everyone XX
- > make peace wherever we go
- > help the world in small ways, but big ways for who we're helping
- > not have wars
- > be kind // make acts of kindness XXX
- > be nice
- > find the wildlife
- > start paying attention to arguments and things of the sort, and try to make it more positive

personal learning

- > learn about what peace is and why we need peace in our life
- > stay with a person to find how they act
- > be more aware of peace
- > use our brains

general suggestions

- > change
- > never give up
- > always look for different ways to build peace

(all answers found on next page)

all answers

- > find trust in others
- > help each other // and not have wars
- > get together
- > help each other
- > spread the word all around the globe to everyone
- > work together
- > make acts of kindness
- > change
- > be kind, never give up and always look for different ways to build peace
- > be nice
- > learn about what peace is and why we need peace in our life
- > stay with a person to find how they act
- > help each other
- > be kind
- > be more aware of peace and make peace wherever we go
- > find the wildlife
- > start paying attention to arguments and things of the sort, and try to make it more positive // spread the word about peace and the need for it
- > help each other
- > use our brains // help others
- > help the world in small ways, but big ways for who we're helping

(note: one student didn't do this part)

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With ten minutes left, I asked people to answer this question:

What is something very important you learned about peace, during the project?

(I explained: 'something' = information, idea, new way of thinking about peace //
'important' = valuable, interesting, important to you)

7 students raised hands and said the following:

- > Peace is hard to make.
- > It doesn't have to be in giant ways.
- > Helping each other.
- > You must have trust.
- > I didn't know there was so much war in other continents.
- > There are many songs about peace.
- > It can be created in many ways.