

The Dream Flag Song

Descant (Harmony)

Melody

D G A

Bring me all your dreams, you dream-ers, — Bring me all your

S

A

G D A G D A

heart me - lo - dies, — that I may wrap them in a blue cloud cloth,

S

A

G A D

a - way from the too - rough fing - ers of the world.

Lyrics from "The Dream Keeper" by Langston Hughes. Music by Jeffrey Harlan.

Arrangement by Cara Latham.

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The Dream Flag Project

Connecting Dream Flags

POETRY & PIZZA

Here's a plan for getting together with another Dream Flag School to share Dream Flags with another school. This is based on a get-together between one sixth grade of about 60 students and another one of nearly the same size. It could be adapted for many age groups.

Here's how it worked:

Summary:

Students from two schools got together on a school day in the morning, shared poetry, and ended having lunch together. It started with a group gathering, then broke into small groups to share poems. There was a snack, then we got together in a large group to share some poems with the whole group, to connect our Dream Flags, and then sing. After that, we had pizza together. Then the visiting school went home.

Materials/Supplies and Set-Up

1. **Tags:** Take the total number of students and divide it by 10 or 12. This is a good size for small groups to share poetry--enough so there can be discussion, and not too many to have enough time. *We had about 120 students, so it was 10 small groups.*
2. **Get two different colors of name tags, the same number of each.** For each color, letter the tags A, B, C, etc. for the number of groups you will have. (E.g. for 10 groups, A -J.) Put the letter in a corner so there's space for the name. Keep the colors separate, but mix up the tags in each color. *For our groups, we labeled 60 red tags with A-J, so we had 5 A's, 6 B's, 6 C's, etc. We also labeled 60 green tags with A-J in the same way (so there are a total of 10 A's, 10 B's, etc.) We mixed up each color group.*
3. **Space:** You will need a space for the small group gatherings and for a large group gathering. You can use one large space such as a gym if you designate areas for the small groups in the large space. Mark spots for each small group to meet with a letter poster or some other indicator of the small group. (Have microphone if possible for poetry reading to the whole group.) *We used a dining are with tables that would seat ten along with a nearby gym. We put a paper with a large letter -- A, B, C, etc. -- on each table.*
4. **Food:** Arrange a snack and lunch for the group. They could bring their own. *We used orangesicles which we called "dreamcicles." We ordered plain pizza and had milk cartons from the cafeteria.*
5. **Dream Flags and Poems:** Each school must have completed their Dream Flag Lines and have them on hand. The host school should lay out flags on the floor in the big space or hang them in some simple way that can easily be taken down. *We set up our flags in the gym. We just draped them over some hooks along the wall. This was along one side of the gym (facing the stage) so the other group could line theirs up on the other side.*

also practice some kind of choral recitations of Hughes poetry to share with the whole group.

7. Optional Music Activity: Have each teacher involved pick out two or three lines from a few poems in each section and send them to a music person. These get compiled into a listing of lines from both schools to be sung at a certain time in the program.

We did this with email and had each teacher choose two groups of lines from each section. The result was around fifteen "verse" lines to be sung as part of The Dream Flag Song.

Process, Timing and People

You need one adult for each small group. You could do it with fewer, but the poetry sharing will work better with an adult to facilitate. You need a teacher leader of the day. To do the music, you need someone who can play and sing.

Here's s possible schedule. This is for a total time of 2 1/2 hours.

1. Arrival of guest school. Assignment of name tags. Assignment of teachers to letter groups. Lay out guest school flags in whole group area. (10 min.)
2. Opening whole group gathering. Explanation of what will happen. Singing of "The Dream Keeper Song." (Sheet Music. Recording. with optional verses. (To do the verses, you need someone who can improvise melody and play an instrument such as guitar. After each chorus of "The Dream Keeper Song," the music leader improvises singing of the verses from student poems provided ahead of time. --See 7 above. You can omit this and just sing the chorus, teaching it by rote. (15 min.)
3. Get into small groups for readings according to letter on your tag. Each students has a paper copy of his/her poem. Teachers go to letter groups. (10 min.)
4. Small group readings. Each student reads his/her Dream Flag poem for the group. After each, the others should comment about what they like in the poem and ask any questions of the poet. The teacher facilitates. Each group also has to select one person from the group to read his/her poem to the whole group--or simply find someone who's willing. This could also be done at random (guess the number) from those who are willing. (25 minutes)
5. Snack break. (15 min.)
6. Whole group gathering. Selected readers from each small group read poems to whole group. Good to have a microphone for this. This may be followed by choral performances of Hughes poetry from students.
7. Set up for connection of Dream Flag lines. This means you designate students to carry the extended Dream Flag lines (about one student every 10 feet of line) and have them lift and hold up the lines for people to see. They should process toward the front of the space and the two "ends" will meet in the middle where you can tie them ceremonially, connecting your dreams. (10 min.)
8. Sing another chorus of "The Dream Keeper Song" while students hold up connected flags. Closing remarks. (15 min.)
9. Break before lunch. (5 min.)
10. Lunch together. (30 min.)
11. Guest school departs.

Here is the schedule we used for the day. It worked fairly well. The singing took more time than we expected. example schedule

The Dream Flag Project

Sample Poetry Pen-Pal Assignment

Hockaday School Poetry Pen-Pals

Girls at the Hockaday School in Dallas, Texas have been doing The Dream Flag Project with us for a few years. This year, their sixth grade has sent us their poems. You will be given a Dream Flag poem by a Hockaday girl who will become your poetry pen-pal.

If you'd like to learn more about their school, the web site is www.hockaday.org. They are a girls school like we are.

Your job is to carefully read and think about the poem written by your pen-pal. Then you will write a letter to her using the guidelines below. Your letter will be mailed back to your pen-pal along with a copy of your Dream Flag poem. Your pen-pal will then write a letter back to you, responding to your letter and your poem.

Letter Guidelines:

First Paragraph:

Introduce yourself (or yourselves) and explain why you are writing. You could tell a little about our school as well.

Second Paragraph:

Talk about the poem your poetry pen-pal wrote. Tell what parts you really like and why. Start from the beginning and go through it. Be specific. You can explain about yourself while you're doing this—how it connects to parts of your life or what you think about things. Tell how you feel when you read it and what you think about its overall message.

Third Paragraph:

You can say more here about their poems overall or just go right to explaining the inspiration for your poem. (Your poem will be sent with the letter you write.) Explain how you wrote the poem and why you chose that one, as opposed to others, to use for your Dream Flag. What makes it a Dream Flag poem to you? What things might you want your pal to comment on? End with whatever friendly wrap-up you would like.

Bring in your rough copy of the letter. We'll revise it and then you'll make a final copy.

The Dream Flag Project

Connecting Dream Flags

SHARING DREAMS ON-LINE

One way to share poems both within your school community and with Dream Flag schools everywhere is to post the poems in our **Gallery of Poems** on the Dream Flags web site. This is also a great place to have students read and think about the poems from other participating schools. It includes links for sending email back to the schools.

(One middle school class used a comparison assignment to help students read, think about, and compare Dream Flag Poems. See attached sheet.)

To publish to poems, they need to be typed and mailed as attachment to dreamflags@agnesirwin.org. Here are some details to remember:

1. Please list the author's **first name and last initial**. We **don't** publish student last names on the site.
2. If you get them to us by third week in March, we can have them up on the site by April 1, the beginning of National Poetry Month, and the time when we plan to be connecting our Dream Flags in different ways. *You can send them any time after that as well*, and they'll be put up as soon as possible.
3. Be sure to include the name of your school and the grade(s) of the students who wrote the poems.
4. You don't need to send *all* of the poems. Samples are be fine.
5. It is best to email a Microsoft Word document attachment with the poems on it. We can deal with other formats if Word is not available.
6. If you'd like to send any pictures of the students or of their flags along with the poems, we'll put them in as well, and it's a great addition.

If you have questions about how to do this, please email dreamflags@agnesirwin.org.⁷

The Dream Flag concept was created by sixth grade teachers Jeff Harlan, Sandy Crow, Helen Holt and others at The Agnes Irwin School (www.agnesirwin.org), Rosemont, Pennsylvania, U.S. The Dream Flag Project (www.dreamflags.org) is a collaborative project facilitated by Jeff Harlan and Sandy Crow. Contact dreamflags@agnesirwin.org or Jeff Harlan, Dream Flags Project Director, The Agnes Irwin School, Ithan Ave. and Conestoga Road, Rosemont, PA 19010, U.S. A.

... for Helen

Name: _____

Dream Flag Poetry Comparison Assignment

Directions:

- 1) Read through poems on the site.
- 2) Choose two poems you like from two *different* schools. They should have something in *common* (like form or theme (other than dreams) or imagery, etc.).
- 3) Copy and paste each poem onto a word document and print it. Include the name of the school.
- 4) Write a letter addressed to the two authors.
 - a. Head your letter with your own first name with last initial, school, city and state. Include the date. Also include the author's names, with school, city and state. In the heading. Use friendly letter format.
 - b. In the body of your letter:
 - i. Write an introductory paragraph explaining why you chose these poems in general terms.
 - ii. Write a paragraph about each poem, explaining what you like about it. Be specific and concrete.
 - iii. In a closing paragraph, explain the connection between the poems and how it connects to your own ideas about dreams or to your own dream poem.
 - c. Write a closing and type your first name with last initial.
- 5) Turn in a rough draft of your letter.
- 6) When you get back your writing, make revisions, and turn in a final copy. We will make copies of your letter and send one to each author!

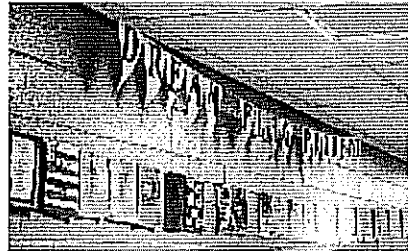
The Dream Flag Project

Dream Flag Exhibition Ideas

**Dream flags are on lines to connect--and to *travel*.
Here are some of the many ways our dreams get shared.**

Dream Flags At School

Exhibit your flags in the cafeteria or out of doors--wherever people get together and pause to read. You can have a Dream Flag Celebration to read the poems and appreciate the work. Some schools combine this with another spring school event such as an arts night.



Dream Flags At Work

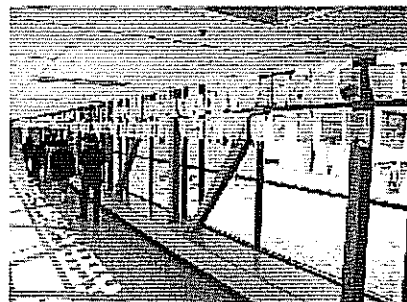
Invite parents to take a line of your Dream Flags to work to display. They will brighten a hallway, lobby or other space and will share the hope. You may also want to approach a large office complex about exhibiting in their lobby space. Include a sign that explains where they came from. Maybe next year you'll be dreaming with even more schools in your area!

Dream Flags At the Library

Ask your local library if you may exhibit Dream Flags there. They promote reading and brighten the space. Include a sign about your school's Dream Flag involvement.

Dream Flags in the Hospital

One of the best places for Dream Flags is in a hospital where people may be very much in need of hope and diversion. Dream Flags exhibit well in long corridors, and hospitals have them. Be sure to allow the hospital plenty of time to organize the exhibit since they usually have important requirements about sanitation, height, and other display factors.





Dream Flags for Shoppers

Many local shopping areas or malls are pleased to exhibit student work, and your Dream Flags will be read by hundreds as they shop, helping people to remember what's really important in the middle of an active day.

Dream Flags at the Airport

Airports are full of people who would love to read something hopeful and beautiful. With many connecting hallways and other gathering spaces, they're an ideal place to exhibit your Dream Flags. Get in touch with your airport administration to see about exhibiting Dream Flags for flyers. Be sure to include signage for your school, and get ready to dream with others from far away!



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