

Lesson: Dayeinu! A Quilt of Gratitude by Josh Goldberg 4/19/19

Overview:

Students will learn about the song Dayeinu and what it means.

They will watch a video of the song, read the lyrics of the song, and then create their own “dayeinu” pages to express what they are grateful for in their lives. All the different pages will be combined into a quilt that can be proudly displayed in the classroom. This lesson is intended for 3rd graders.

Materials:

- Whiteboard
- Expo Markers
- 20 Copies of Lyrics for Dayeinu (Appendix A)
- Laptop and big screen or projector
- Load up this video (search for) The Maccabeats - Dayenu - Passover
 - Or type in this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZgDNPGZ9Sg>
- Speakers
- 20 pieces of paper (variety of colors) with text from Appendix B printed on them
- 5 sets of markers
- 5 sets colored pencils
- Giant roll of paper
- Laminator
- Glue sticks

Preparation:

- Prepare video on computer/projector screen
- Print out 20 copies of Appendix A and Appendix B
- Get markers and colored pencils ready. Arrange tables so there are 4-5 students at each table.

Enduring Understandings:

We can use the Passover story to cultivate gratitude for the blessings in our lives.

Essential Questions:

1. What does the word Dayeinu literally mean? Can you break the word down into two parts: “day” and “einu”?
2. Why did the Israelites say “Dayeinu”?
3. What can we say “dayeinu” for in our lives?

Skills and Knowledge:

Be able to identify the song Dayeinu, know what the word means, and what the song is about, and how the song is applicable to our own lives.

Goals:

Use creativity through visual art to depict specific things students are grateful for.
Have an thoughtful discussion about the song “Dayeinu”, and about gratitude.

Introduction/Set Induction:

This set induction should take about 15 minutes.

- Briefly talk about how we are approaching the holiday of Passover, which celebrates the story of the Jews’ exodus from Egypt, and now every year we have a seder to celebrate this story of freedom.
- Ask the students to raise their hand if they have ever been to a Passover seder.
- For those that raised their hands ask them, What are some of the things we do at a seder?

Write down answers on board which will probably be something like:

- Eat Food
- Find the Afikomen
- Drink the Wine
- Talk about the Exodus
- Sing Songs
- Once one of the student inevitably answers that we sing songs, ask them what are some of the Passover songs you remember singing at the seder?
- Hopefully one of them will answer “Dayeinu”. If not, remind them that this is a famous Passover song sung all over the world.
- What does the word dayeinu mean? (write this on the board)
 - Break the word down into two parts
 - Dai= Enough
 - Einu= For us
 - Together we translate it as “It would have been enough for us”

Activities:

- (4 minutes) Watch a video of the Maccabeats singing Dayeinu
Hand out lyrics to Dayeinu
- (4 Minutes) Have each student read one verse of the song in English, “popcorn style”
- (7 minutes) Sing the song together, if they don’t know the song yet, teach the chorus first, then teach the Hebrew of each verse as you go along. Then sing the song all the way through.

- (10 Minutes) Discussion:

1. Question: “What do you think this song is about?

(About thanking God for all the things s/he has done for us)

2. Question? Why does each verse add something new saying “it would have been enough if you had done ____?”

(To express gratitude for each thing that God did, showing how each one was amazing in itself, but then God kept doing more.)

3. Question: We usually talk to God in three ways: praise, request, and thanks. Which category do you think this song falls into?

4. Question: Why is it important to express thanks in our lives?

- Say: This is a list of what the Israelites were thankful for when they escaped slavery and made it out of Egypt. What things could we say “Dayeinu” for that we are grateful for?
- Prompt: I want you each to think of one thing you could say “Dayeinu” for and write it on this piece of paper in the blank space, then draw a picture of what it is you are expressing thanks to God for. Suggestion: please try to stay away from material objects (video games, toys, etc) and focus on the most important things in your life (my family, my health, etc).
- Hand out paper, markers, and colored pencils.
- (15-20 minutes) Students work on their drawings.

Summary/Assessments:

(10 minutes)

- When students are done, they will each present to the class what they wrote and drew, and why.
- Then teacher will collect all the drawings, explain that s/he is going to glue them onto a giant roll of paper, then laminate the paper, creating a quilt of “Dayeinu’s” that we can display in the classroom to remind us of all the things we are grateful for!

Reflection:

- What parts of the lesson went well? What were the difficulties?
- Did we stay on track time-wise with enough time to finish each part of the lesson?
- Was there anything I could have done better in facilitating the discussion?
- Did the students stay on task?
- Did the students seem to enjoy it and get something out of it?

Dayeinu- It Would Have Been Enough for Us!

Ilu hotzi hozti anu, hotzi anu mi mitzrayim

אלו הוציאנו ממצרים

Hotzi anu mi mitzrayim Dayeinu

Translation: If only you had delivered us out of Egypt, it would have been enough for us!

Dai, dayeinu, dai dayeinu, dai dayeinu dayeinu dayeinu

דיינו

Ilu natan natan lanu natan lanu et hashabat natan lanu et hashabat dayienu

אלו נתן לנו את השבת

Translation: If only you had given us the day of Shabbat, it would have been enough for us!

Dai, dayeinu, dai dayeinu, dai dayeinu dayeinu dayeinu

אלו נתן לנו את התורה

Ilu natan lanu, natan lanu et haTorah, natan lanu et ha Torah, Dayeinu

Translation: If only you had given us the Torah, it would have been enough for us!

Dai, dayeinu, dai dayeinu, dai dayeinu dayeinu dayeinu

דיינו

