

Drama and Storytelling in Peace Education

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The troubled state of the world since the beginning of the third millennium has led many educators, especially language teachers, to cast themselves in a new role as teachers of peace. Drama and storytelling have been powerful tools in teaching peace and conflict resolution, even in areas of high-intensity conflict like Sudan, the former Yugoslavia, and Israel/Palestine. This workshop will demonstrate techniques by which drama can be used to examine conflicts, help participants understand different points of view, and envision creative solutions. It will also explore ways in which stories and storytelling can be applied to peace education, through reframing, parable, and real-life example. The peace activist Gene Knudsen Hoffman once observed, "Your enemy is one whose story you have not heard." Drama and storytelling provide a uniquely powerful way to cut through the tumult of arguments, hear the "enemy's" story, and rediscover what we all have in common as human beings.