

ZAAGI'IDIWIN - Love

Grandfather Teaching: Zaagi'idiwin—Love:

Love comes from our heart through our feelings. We should be encouraged to listen to our hearts. We need to trust our feelings. Too often we live in our minds which creates fear and anxiety. We no longer trust in that we will always be looked after by Mother Earth, that she provides us everything that we need. We must also show our love to Mother Earth through gratitude, giving thanks to creation and to acknowledge all things that came before us. Love must be unconditional. To know love is to also know peace.

~Nancy Rowe, Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation

“I have been called The Greatest Warrior among All Our Relations. This may be so. What I learned to conquer were the challenges to my Heart Unity within my chest. Self-confidence and love strengthen everything inside you. This you can also do, my sister and brother. This is the

time to continue your Good Red Road Journey,
while still in the body.”

Tashunke Witko, Crazy Horse

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

The Ontario Catholic Graduate School Expectations provide a set of overriding principles that serve to guide Catholic students through their Catholic education faith journey. The expectations serve as a continuous reminder of the behaviours that are to be exemplified throughout their lives.

Connected Expectation:

A Collaborative Contributor: *who finds meaning, dignity, and vocation in work which respect the rights of all and contributes to the common good.*

Virtues Program

Virtue: Love (April) God wants us to serve and to see the goodness in everyone we meet.

Virtue: Conscience (November) is the voice of God within us. A developed conscience helps us make decisions that encourage and support truly loving relationships.

Connections to Ontario Ministry of Education Curriculum Documents

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GRADE 7

BELIEVING

BL3: Demonstrate an understanding of how the Church is called in its mission to witness to being apostolic

LIVING A MORAL LIFE

ML1: Demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of the Church's teaching role concerning Christian morality.

ML3: Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of developing a life of virtue in order to discern and implement the moral teachings found in the Gospels and applied through the teachings of the Church.

LIVING IN COMMUNION

LC1: Understand that belonging to the community of the Church involves responsibilities of faith and of Christian living.

LC2: Understand how the Church has relied on the intercession of the communion of saints.

LIVING IN SOLIDARITY

LS1: Understand that through the sacraments of service we receive the gift of grace to live our vocations as Catholic Christians for the benefit of society and the world.

LS2: Focus: Principle of Human Solidarity

Understand that the principle of human solidarity is a Christian social virtue which promotes the individual and communal sharing of material and spiritual goods, and obligates us to seek individual and communal conversion.

LIVING A MORAL LIFE

ML1: Demonstrate an understanding of how living the Christian moral life in accordance to the Moral Law is a witness to the Truth, the Dignity of the Human Person and the building up of the Church and Society.

ML2: Demonstrate an understanding of the important roles of Scripture, the Church and the Holy Spirit in the formation of a healthy conscience.

ML3: Demonstrate an understanding that the grace received through the Holy Spirit calls us to holiness and gives us the gifts we need to be justified in the Christian life.

LIVING IN COMMUNION

LC1: Demonstrate an understanding of how the Church community supports one's life of faith and how our participation in the Church witnesses to the reign of God.

LC2: Understand how the Holy Spirit through the communion of saints guides, teaches, and inspires the Church to a communion of holiness.

LIVING IN SOLIDARITY

LS1: Understand that the principle of human dignity, revealed in Scripture requires Christians to work for the common good of all people and to participate in society.

LS2: Focus: Principle of Rights and Responsibilities

Understand that the principles of responsibility and participation in society are Christian social virtues, which call us to roles of leadership, to evangelize through our witness of the Gospel and through the promotion of social justice in the world.

LS3: Demonstrate an understanding of the mission of the Church as animated by the Holy Spirit and focused on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with all people of the earth.

FAMILY LIFE

GRADE 7 & 8

CREATED AND LOVED BY GOD

A1. Appreciating God's Goodness: demonstrate an appreciation that humans have been created in the image of a loving God.

A2. Exploring Human Nature: demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which humans are both unique and share a common human nature with each other.

A3 Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing: apply an understanding of the unique and shared aspects of human nature in personally relevant contexts.

LIVING IN RELATIONSHIP

B1. Appreciating God's Goodness: appreciate that humans are called to image the love of God by living in relationship with others.

B2. Exploring Human Nature: demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which the bonds of family and friendship are central to human life and shape human identity and development.

B3. Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing: apply an understanding of the role of relationships in shaping human identity and development in personally relevant contexts.

LIVING IN THE WORLD

E1. Appreciating God's Goodness: appreciate that humans are called to image the love of God by caring for all of God's gifts of creation.

E2. Exploring Human Nature: demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which humans participate in society and fulfill the responsibility to care for and build God's world.

E3. Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing: apply an understanding of the global dimension of human nature in personally relevant contexts.

LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE 7 & 8

ORAL COMMUNICATION

1. Listen in order to understand and respond appropriately in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes;
2. Use speaking skills and strategies appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes;

READING

1. Read and demonstrate an understanding of a variety of literary, graphic, and informational texts, using a range of strategies to construct meaning;
2. Recognize a variety of text forms, text features, and stylistic elements and demonstrate understanding of how they help communicate meaning;

MEDIA LITERACY

1. Demonstrate an understanding of a variety of media texts;
2. Create a variety of media texts for different purposes and audiences, using appropriate forms, conventions, and techniques;

THE ARTS

GRADE 7 & 8

MUSIC

C2. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing: apply the critical analysis process to communicate their feelings, ideas, and understandings in response to a variety of music and musical experiences;

VISUAL ARTS

D1. Creating and Presenting: apply the creative process to produce art works in a variety of traditional two- and three-dimensional forms, as well as multimedia art works, that communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings, using elements, principles, and techniques of visual arts as well as current media technologies;

D2. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing: apply the critical analysis process to communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings in response to a variety of art works and art experiences;

ZAAGI'IDIWIN – Love
Activity: Lessons on Love
Intermediate

Overview

As described by Isaac in the video, the central theme of Zaagi'idiwin is love. He spoke of the different forms that love may take, particularly the type of love that has to do with caring and providing. Examples included the sun shining on flowers, the goodness of rain, the flowing rivers, and the love of a mother and father for their children. Isaac also spoke of the need to take the perspective of love in that it is “not what you get, but what you give”.

In this lesson students will explore the concept of love, in particular the concept of unconditional love. Students will have an opportunity to enrich their perspective of this concept by creating a video depicting examples of unconditional love. Through consolidation questions, students will further explore how the concept of love is present in their lives in many different forms.

Assessment:

Assessment for, as, and of learning is developed through the co-creation of learning goals and success criteria with students, based upon chosen overall and specific expectations. Teachers are encouraged to choose focus areas from the overall expectations listed in relation to this lesson.

Minds on:

From various sources choose a number of pictures that display the concept of love. Have students describe the caring that they see displayed in the pictures. Identify who or what is providing the love and caring in each of the photos and who or what is benefitting from the love and care being provided to them. Discuss the concept of unconditional love, what it means, and some examples of this.

Watch *The Sacred Fisher Story* as told by Isaac Murdoch. Teachers are also encouraged to use the transcription of the story as a shared reading lesson.

Watch the video discussing the concept of Zaagi'idiwin - Love. The transcription is also provided.

Discuss where unconditional love was demonstrated in the story.

Have students brainstorm a list of people who demonstrate acts of unconditional love. Ask students to identify the characteristics of those people and the impact they have on others around them.

Action:

Ask the students if they know who Mother Teresa is and what they know about her. Provide the class with some background information on Mother Teresa and her life's work in helping the poor while making connections to the concept of unconditional love.

Show the class the video: Lessons on Love https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_y79GrEFMUE

Have students find and select a song that communicates the idea of unconditional love. Create a video for their song that is a visual representation on the concept of unconditional love. Media type might include Powerpoint, Prezi, iMovie, etc.

Consolidation:

Have students share their presentations.

Revisit the words from Isaac, "It's not what you get but what you give". Ask students how this is related to unconditional love. Ask them to share examples of how they can demonstrate unconditional love.

Further Reflection Guiding Questions:

How does God provide for us?

How is God's love unconditional?

How does Mother Earth provide for us?

How is the love of Mother Earth unconditional?

What can we do to show our love for Mother Earth?