

## **LETTERS FOR PEACE Grades 1 - 6**

**Subject:** Social Studies, English, Current Events, Culture, Art

**Unit:** Letters for Peace

**Overview:** After seeing photos of Iraqi children and hearing some letters from them about their desire for peace, students will each write a letter expressing their hopes for peace. Letters will be displayed on a website where they can be viewed by children and teachers in both countries.

### **Teacher Objectives:**

- Students will deepen their understanding of what the absence and presence of peace means in one's daily life.
- Students will increase their empathy for other humans living under occupation.
- Students will recognize that the children of a country that their troops are occupying are not their enemies.
- Students will express their desire for peace in words in a letter.

### **Resource materials:**

- For Teacher's background information: Childhood is Dying in by Dahr Jamail and Ahmed Ali and Synopsis of the Status of Education in Iraq.
- Power Point

### **Materials Needed:**

Paper and pens for writing letters.

### **Using the PowerPoint:**

Select a power point from Original Letters for Peace, Letters for Peace Power Point Grades 1 - 6, or A Child's Heart, either 1-3 or 4 -6. View the PP by yourself first to familiarize yourself with it.

The PowerPoint contains photos of and letters written by Iraqi and American youth. A Child's Heart contains artwork done by Iraqi students.

### **Preparation for letter writing:**

Depending on the letter-writing skills of students, one letter from the entire class is an option.

Guide discussion that encourages students to share their thoughts and feelings about the content of the Iraqi letters in small or large groups. Decide whether students will write their own letters or work together in small groups. Perhaps a group will