



LESSON PLAN FOR TEACHERS

Adaptable to various grade levels

IF I CAN DREAM: HOW ELVIS PRESLEY OBTAINED HIS CHILDHOOD DREAMS

CLASS OVERVIEW

Students will learn about the life of Elvis Presley and how he overcame poverty to become a historical American icon known around the world as the King of Rock 'n' Roll. After a visit to his Memphis home Graceland, the students will continue to learn about the importance of setting their own goals and dreams.

CLASS OBJECTIVES

As a result of this class, students will be better able to:

1. Listen to gain and interpret information.
2. Communicate their understanding of the lesson using both verbal and written skills.
3. Understand the life story of Elvis Presley and his goals and dreams.
4. Realize the benefits of setting goals and committing to them.
5. Learn goal setting techniques.

MATERIALS FOR GRADE LEVELS 1 - 3:

Listen to the song "Confidence" recorded by Elvis Presley or watch the scene from his movie "Clambake."

Questions for students:

1. What does the song say about accomplishing goals?
2. Was Elvis Presley successful in reaching his goals?
3. What are your goals?
4. How can you reach your goals?
 - Write the goal down and why it is important to you.
 - Outline steps needed to achieve the goal.
 - Set deadlines or dates to assess your progress.

MATERIALS FOR GRADE LEVELS 4 - 8:

Listen to or read the speech given by Elvis Presley accepting the Jaycees Award.

Questions for students:

1. How did Elvis get started?
2. Who influenced his career?
3. What did he do to pursue his dreams?
4. How did he obtain his dreams and goals?

Listen to the song "If I Can Dream" by Elvis Presley

1. In the song "If I Can Dream" what goals did Elvis wish to reach?

Listen to or read "I've got a Dream" speech by Martin Luther King

1. In the speech "I've Got A Dream" what goals did Martin Luther King strive for?
2. How are these goals similar?
3. Have they been achieved?
4. If not, what steps can you take to make these dreams come true?
5. What are your dreams and goals?
6. What steps can you take to achieve them?

Follow up assignments can include:

Students making a book called "I Have A Dream" with each student writing about their own dreams and putting their entry in the book.

Have students write letters to one or both men focusing on what they have learned about their goals and what they would like to tell them or ask them about their lives and careers.

Read and report on a biographical book about one or both men.

Students can write about a time when they have set a goal and accomplished it. They can describe in detail how they achieved their goal and how it made them feel successful.