



# Gibbs Smith Education

## Lesson Plan (middle school)

### Represent Girlhood

- Explain to students that one way to better understand and interpret the role of various groups within society is to identify and analyze artwork created by those groups.
- Divide the class into pairs or small groups. Have students think about what the experience of girlhood is like for young people today. Instruct students to make a list of the descriptions they discuss with their classmates.
  - **Ask:** What words would you use to describe the experience of present-day girls?
  - **Ask:** Are there any songs that come to mind that you think represent girlhood today?
- Individually or in their previous pairs/small groups, instruct students to conduct research and choose the song that they think best represents girlhood today.
  - **Note:** Based on the needs of your class, it may be a good idea to review what songs are appropriate for this assignment as students will present their songs to the class. Consider having them choose excerpts of their song if it contains lyrics not appropriate for playing for the class, or they can use the radio versions.
- Next have students copy the song's lyrics into a document or print the lyrics for them. Instruct students to analyze the lyrics, annotating for the parts of the song they believe represent girlhood.
- Instruct students to present their song to the class. Have them play their song and then present their analysis of their lyrics.
- Once all students are finished, conduct a class discussion and determine common themes present in the songs students shared.
- As an extension of this activity, consider having students listen to Olivia Gatwood's poem "When I Say We Are All Teen Girls" and assess the poems depiction of girlhood.

#### Approx. Time



30 minutes

#### Success Criteria



- Students will identify and analyze examples of girlhood in popular music.

#### Big Questions



- How is girlhood represented in the world today?

#### Materials



- "When I say We Are all Teen Girls" poem

#### Author



- Claire Wolters



# Gibbs Smith Education

Lesson Plan (elementary school)

## Girls Run the World

- Have students think about important women they have learned about in previous history classes and lessons.
  - **Ask:** What woman came to mind? What did she accomplish?
  - **Ask:** Who is the youngest influential girl or woman you can think of?
- Instruct students to research girls who are making change in the world today. Consider providing a starting point for their research with the following website: <https://people.com/peoples-girls-changing-the-world-2023-8348091>
- Once students have chosen a change-making girl and completed their research, have them use a presentation platform, like Google Slides, to create a short presentation about the change-maker they chose.
- Students' presentations should include the following:
  - the changemaker's name
  - their age
  - the project they are working on
  - accomplishments they have made
  - any interesting facts
- Once all students are finished, as a whole class or in small groups, have students give presentations on the change-making girl they researched.

Approx. Time



30 minutes

Success Criteria



- Students will research young girls who have changed the world and present their findings.

Big Questions ✓

- How do girls make impactful change in our world today?

Materials



- Presentation platform like Google Slides
- [People's "Girls Changing the World 2023"](https://people.com/peoples-girls-changing-the-world-2023-8348091)

Author



- Claire Wolters