

## Madison Meeting (Northern YM)

### Online Lesson Plan, Elementary, Something Happened in Our Town

Date of lesson:	June 7, 2020
Teachers	Nathan Brelsford, Dan Karamanski
Book, author	<a href="#">Something Happened in Our Town</a> : A Child's Story About Racial Injustice, by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin
Location:	<a href="#">Colorful Pages.org</a>
Theme:	Justice, Peace, Equality, Community "The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them." – Ida B. Wells-Barnett
Prep:	Cut out problem cards. Write numbers on the back Gather a marker, index cards or small pieces of paper for problem solutions
Greeting	Greet students individually as they come on. Try to get a response from them to test their sound.
Opening:	<i>I have some questions for you:          What do you know about what has been happening in the news?          What questions do you have?"</i> [Talk about the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police and the protests that have followed around the country and the world.] <b>Moment of Silence:</b> <i>Often when someone dies, people take a moment of silence to remember the person and give thanks for their life. Let's take a moment of silence for George Floyd.</i> [Sit in silence for a moment. Thank the class.]
Introduction:	<i>This is a story about two families in a town where the police have shot a black man. Let's listen to the kids and their families, and see what happens next.</i>
Play book:	<a href="#">Something Happened in Our Town</a>
Reflection:	<i>I wonder if you have ever seen kids treat other children unfairly.          I wonder how you felt.          When that happens in this story, there are three types of people:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Those who were unfair to others, like Daniel and Sophia</i></li> <li>• <i>Those who were treated unfairly, like Omar, and</i></li> <li>• <i>Those who saw it happen, like Josh and Emma.</i></li> </ul> <i>I wonder what you would do if you saw something like this.</i> [Help children discuss how bystanders can change the outcome and set a new pattern.]
Play <i>What would happen if</i> :	See instructions below. Play one or more rounds as time allows.
Closing:	<i>Next week we will play a game about the Quaker Time Machine. Then we will turn the time machine to the future. What do you think will happen?</i> [Invite students to join their families in Meeting for Worship at 11:15AM]

Announcements Message to families	<b>Elementary (2nd-6th grade) 10:25 - 11:00 AM:</b> the class will read <a href="#">Something Happened in Our Town</a> A Child's Story About Racial Injustice. This uplifting story follows two families, one white and one black, and their conversations about racial injustice. Among other things, the class will consider how bystanders can change dynamics between peers.
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# What Would Happen If...

Source: [Young Peacemakers Project Book](#), by Kathleen Fry-Miller and Judith Myers-Walls, 1988 Brethren Press

## Materials:

- 'Sharpie' type marker, black or blue
- 3x5 cards or pieces of paper of a similar size
- Problem cards as shown below

## Instructions:

1. Brainstorm possible solutions to common problems. With a marker, write each response on a 3x5 card or piece of paper.

Examples:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Say something kind</li><li>• Ask someone to join you</li><li>• Share with the other person</li><li>• Offer to help</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ignore the problem</li><li>• Run away</li><li>• Cry</li><li>• Yell</li></ul>
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2. Hold up all of the problem cards with the number side facing the screen. Ask the class to choose a number
3. Talk about how they can respond to get to a win-win solution
4. Repeat with another problem as time allows

**Problem Cards:** Cut out the following problem cards. With a marker write a number on the back of each one.

<p><b>You see a child say something mean to another child.</b></p>	<p><b>Your friends are choosing sides for a game. A child is left out.</b></p>
<p><b>You're playing with friends. One child has lots of toy cars or dolls. Another child doesn't have any.</b></p>	<p><b>You see a child break something that belongs to someone else.</b></p>

**Your brother or sister  
takes something your  
friend was playing with.**

**Your brother or sister is  
playing in a loud way.  
You and your friend want  
them to be quiet.**