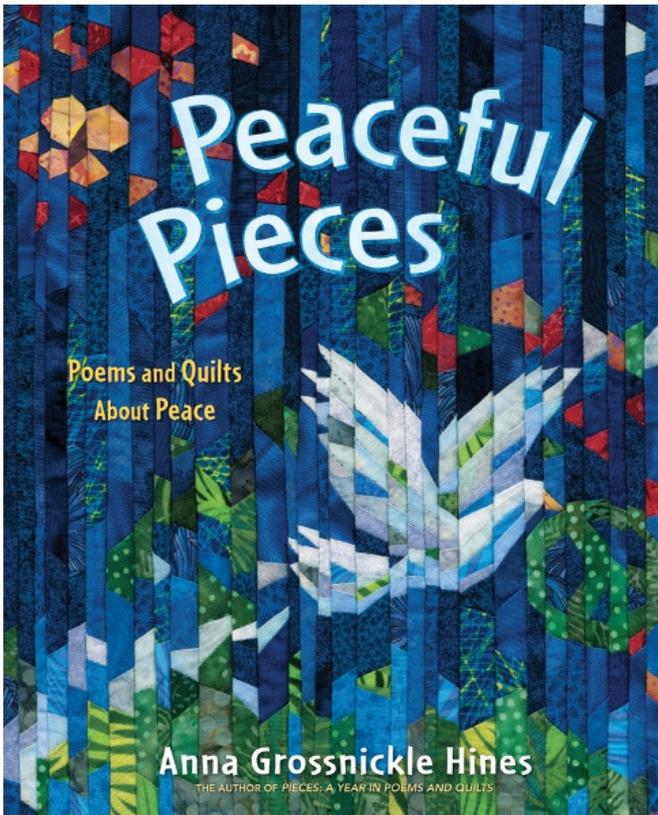


Peaceful Pieces: Poems and Quilts About Peace

by Anna Grossnickle Hines
A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit



About the Book

In this evocative collection of poems illustrated with handmade quilts, Anna Grossnickle Hines describes peace in all its various and sometimes surprising forms at home, on a worldwide scale, and within oneself. Exploring the meaning of peace and its fleeting nature, this book compels each of us to discover and act upon peace ourselves.

A word by the author about creating the poems:

"Most of these poems were written over a period of months when, inspired by my writer friends, I set myself the goal of writing a poem a day. Peace has always been important to me, all kinds of peace, from an inner calm to the end of wars all over the earth. My theme for these poems, I decided, would be peace."

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Book Details

Peaceful Pieces, written and illustrated by Anna Grossnickle Hines, Henry Holt and Company, 2011. ISBN 9780805089967. Ages 6 and up.
<http://us.macmillan.com/peacefulpieces/AnnaHines>



About the Author

Anna Grossnickle Hines has written and illustrated many highly acclaimed books for children, including ***1, 2, 3 Buckle My Shoe***; ***Winter Lights: A Season in Poems and Quilts***; and ***Pieces: A Year in Poems and Quilts***. She was born in rural Ohio, and then moved to California after turning eleven, reading and drawing throughout her childhood. She has had a career in teaching, but still continued to write and draw throughout her adult life as well. She currently lives with her family in Gualala, California.

Learn much more about Anna Grossnickle Hines by reading the Short Autobiography with Photos on her website:

http://www.aghines.com/anna_html_pages/Bio_QA_family/annabio.htm

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Author Resources:

Anna Grossnickle Hines' official website

<http://www.aghines.com/>

Visit this website to read Anna Grossnickle Hines' thoughts on quilts as art.

Henry Holt and Company's page about Anna Grossnickle Hines

<http://us.macmillan.com/author/annagrossnicklehines>

For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:

Email Anna Grossnickle Hines directly at anna@aghines.com

Talk About It!

Topics to share when discussing **Peaceful Pieces** with young readers.

- What does peace mean to you? Where do you find peace?
- What types of things can you do to encourage peace around you and make the world a better place?
- How do the quilts that accompany the poems add to their meaning and vision?
- What other forms of visual creativity do you think could accompany poems? Art? Sculpture? Interpretive motion? Can you think of any other ways to visualize poetry?
- The first poem, "Making an Entrance", describes peace coming into our lives in different manners. At first, the author describes peace arriving in a very noticeable way, and then she portrays it slipping in quietly. How do you think peace usually arrives?
- In the poem "Sure Cure", the narrator's mother makes the two bickering siblings touch noses to stop fighting. Do you have siblings or other relatives that you fight with? How do you or your parents keep you from bickering? How do you and your friends solve arguments like the one in the poem?
- Notice how the author uses space and words to create a feeling in her poems like "Weightless" and "Calming the Busy Brain". Why do you think she spaced the words in that way? How does the shape and presentation of the words affect their meaning?
- "Tough Act" is a very short poem that reads, "Where there is fear peace walks a tightrope". What do you think this means? Why are fear and peace linked together in this way?
- In what ways, big or small, can you become a Peacemaker? Discuss some of the obstacles faced when fighting for peace. How can we as a society overcome those?



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Learn and have fun!

Here are some ideas for extending the experience of reading **Peaceful Pieces**.

- Anna Grossnickle Hines uses pictures of quilt pieces to accompany her poems. Try drawing different illustrations to go with the poems in this collection.
- Write your own poem about peace. Or, write a set of poems and draw illustrations to accompany them.
- In "On the River", Anna Grossnickle Hines uses the letters in the word Peace to create a vision of peace. Write a similar poem, using P-E-A-C-E to create a peaceful setting.
- Anna Grossnickle Hines has said that most of the poems in this book were written when she challenged herself to write a poem a day. Try this exercise, creating a poem a day, for at least a week.
- Create your own quilts using fabric or paper. Anna Grossnickle Hines provides some patterns on her website:
http://www.aghines.com/anna_html_pages/Quilt/PATTERNS/jpegpatterns.htm#color
- Anna Grossnickle Hines lists some Peacemakers at the end of **Peaceful Pieces**. Using Biography Reference Bank, World Book Online, or other online library resources available to students through INFOhio (<http://www.infohio.org/>) and to all Ohio residents through Ohio Web Library (<http://www.ohioweblibrary.org/>) chose one or two of the Peacemakers to research.
- What can you learn from The Peacemakers about peacemaking? What have they done for peace and why were they so exceptional?
- Try to find ways to become your own version of a Peacemaker. You don't have to do it alone. Get your friends and family involved as well!



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Explore More!

*Additional ideas and resources to use with **Peaceful Pieces**.*

Anna Grossnickle Hine's Blog: From the Heart

<http://www.aghines.blogspot.com/>

Poetry of the moment, inspired by our connection to nature and to one another.

Anna Grossnickle Hines offers many activities and coloring pages

on her website, related to her children's books:

http://www.aghines.com/anna_html_pages/Activities/annaactv.htm

Faces of Peace Quiz

<http://www.salsa.net/peace/faces/>

From the peaceCENTER, this page shows images of 43 peacemakers of the past 200 years. How many do you recognize? Click on each to learn his or her name and story.

The Great Kindness Challenge

<http://www.greatkindnesschallenge.org/index.html>

One day devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible. The Great Kindness Challenge aims to reach one million participants in 100 countries.

Ohio Quilt Guilds

<http://www.quiltguilds.com/ohio.htm>

Quilt Guilds support learning about and appreciation of quilts, and usually offer regular meetings featuring programs, "show and tell", and learning opportunities. They may sponsor quilt shows, create and donate quilts to community organizations, or offer classes or workshops.

Explore the quilting books at your local public library.

Here is a directory of public libraries in Ohio: <http://www.oplin.org/fal>.

Libraries using the Dewey Decimal System frequently keep quilting books in call number 746.46. You are welcome to ask a librarian for assistance!

Internet Public Library (ipl2) offers a resource guide on quilting, including websites,

blogs, and books: <http://www.ipl.org/div/pf/entry/48521>.

About Choose to Read Ohio

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio and the Ohioana Library Association, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: <http://library.ohio.gov/ctro>.

This toolkit created June 2012, revised March 2013.