



February Family Guide to Theme Based Discussion & Practices

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
2010 WHENONA DRIVE ■ MADISON, WI ■ UUPRAIRIE.ORG ■ 608.271.8218

A BRAVE AND STARTLING TRUTH (excerpt)

By Maya Angelou

We, this people, on a small and lonely
planet

Traveling through casual space
Past aloof stars, across the way of
indifferent suns

To a destination where all signs tell us
It is possible and imperative that we learn
A brave and startling truth

And when we come to it
To the day of peacemaking
When we release our fingers
From fists of hostility
And allow the pure air to cool our palms

When we come to it
We, this people, on this wayward,
floating body
Created on this earth, of this earth
Have the power to fashion for this earth
A climate where every man and every
woman

Can live freely without sanctimonious
piety
Without crippling fear

When we come to it
We must confess that we are the possible
We are the miraculous, the true wonder
of this world
That is when, and only when
We come to it.

Diversity...

By Holly Tellander, DRE

February is the month of love ~
and what better time to celebrate
our differences as well as our
similarities....both great and
small?

Unity and Diversity are not
mutually exclusive concepts, as
we all know. Each of us has our
own unique views, philosophies,
practices, religions and beliefs.
And though kids today hear the
word diversity a lot – maybe
much more than previous
generations – our societal
problems point us to the
knowledge that there is more to
do to unite in our shared
humanity.

Prairie kids (and their families)
are lucky to live in a diverse city
like Madison, but perhaps there
is more work to be done.

How do we as Unitarian
Universalists approach the ideas
of unity and diversity within our
own congregation here at
Prairie? How are our differences
celebrated? How do we share our
common vision?

The biggest challenge in
honoring unity & diversity is not
to make a constant comparison
between one and another – it is
rather to strive to find our
common ground and keep a
watchful eye so that we may
reach out our hands to those who
have something new to teach us.

No one is born hating
another person
because of the color
of his skin, or his
background, or his
religion. People must
learn to hate, and if
they can learn to hate,
they can be taught to
love, for love comes
more naturally to the
human heart than its
opposite.

Nelson Mandela
Long Walk to Freedom



Round the Table

TELL ABOUT your best friend – how do your differences and your similarities make your friendship better?

TALK ABOUT THE strengths of each member of your family. How does each person's personality contribute to the group?

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE to someone who feels very different from people in their family?

Resources on 'Unity & Diversity'



- √ The Point (1971)
- √ Milo & Otis (1986)
- √ Gnomio & Juliet (2011)
- √ Remember the Titans (2000)
- √ Edward Scissorhands (1990)
- √ The Help (2011)

- √ The More We Get Together - Raffi
- √ Everyday people - Sly & The Family Stone
- √ Get Together - The Youngbloods
- √ I Am Not My Hair - India Arie
- √ Road to Acceptance - Green Day
- √ Roll Away Your Stone - Mumford & Son



- √ A Bad Case of the Stripes - David Shannon
- √ The Sign of the Beaver - Elizabeth George Spear
- √ Mango, Abuela & Me - Meg Medina
- √ The Most Amazing Creatures in the Sea - Brenda Z. Guiberson

Principles in ACTION

Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote 7 core principles

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1. Everyone is important.
2. Be kind in all you do.
3. We are free to learn together.
4. We can all search for our own truth.
5. Everyone has a voice.
6. We work together to build a fair and peaceful world.
7. We care for our planet.

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How can your family engage with the theme of 'unity & diversity' in the context of living out one or more of our principles? Share your ideas & experiences on our Theme Board downstairs!

Some ideas

- ◇ Work on a puzzle together – notice how everyone has a different strategy to get the same job done
- ◇ Talk about what music you like and dislike – can you find diversity & unity in your choices?
- ◇ Use the media options on this page to have a conversation about what is happening in the story or song