I SING AND I PRAY
for youth learners

I Sing and I...

This exercise is designed to help your students find their own ways to personally identify with a text from which they may feel distant. While the exercise builds on themes in “I Sing and I Pray,” it is not necessary to have listened to the episode to engage in the activity.

This exercise is best suited to those students in grades four and up.

1. Invite your students to choose a text, such as a prayer or a poem, to which they have trouble relating.

   Or

   Present a text to your students that you think might feel distant from their immediate interests and concerns.

2. Next, discuss the text(s) to explore meaning, context, details, and themes.

3. Ask your students to choose a song that they enjoy which, specifically, has lyrics that they like. The song’s lyrics could be directly related to the ideas in the poem/prayer or they could be completely unrelated.

4. Then, have the students choose between five and ten lines from the poem/prayer. This can be a random choice or it can be based on interest.

5. Ask them to choose the same number of lines of lyrics from their selected song.

6. Allow up to fifteen minutes for the students to put all of the selected lines from both the prayer/poem and the song lyrics together to form a new text.

7. Give the students a few minutes to read the text to themselves and to write down any of their feelings or reflections in connection with what they are reading. Students should be encouraged to write these thoughts down as phrases or full sentences.

8. Now, give them ten minutes to incorporate any of the reflections or feelings they wrote down into the new text. This may require some rearranging of what they have already created or may just involve them inserting these thoughts in between other lines.

9. Invite the students to share their creations with each other.