

Joyfulness

- > **Prayers** “Blessed is the Spot...”
...review the memorising of this prayer. Sing it again, use drums/rhythm to help with the flow of words.
- > **Theme** *Joyfulness* – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá tells us that joy gives us wings! ...and helps out spiritual progress. It is a quality of the human heart! When the heart is full of joy it attracts the blessings of the Kingdom on High. We must be happy and joyful under all conditions – shine like brilliant lamps and shed the light of joy everywhere... the best way to help those who are not well is to bring joy to their hearts (see p.29 of Ruhi Book 3a for more explanations, or Virtues Guide p.157)
- > **Quote** – read, explain and memorise it.
“O Son of Man! Rejoice in the gladness of thine heart, that thou mayest be worthy to meet Me and to mirror forth My beauty.” –Bahá’u’lláh

(...why do we memorise this quote? to help us remember to be joyful...!)
- > **Song** – Sing the song ‘Joy’, by Canadian musician Nancy Ward. It’s beautiful when sung in rounds. Listen to it here: http://www.ruhi.org/resources/songs/22_JOY.mp3
- > **Story** – p.30 in Ruhi Book 3a: *About Leroy Ioas meeting ‘Abdu’l-Bahá on His visit to Chicago. Leroy was only 16 then... see story on page 3 of this pdf* >
- > **Drama** – To develop skills and abilities, learning to control our actions within a defined space (p.30):
 - > imaginary square, moving within, along the edge of it, stretching as high as the sky, etc.
 - > pretend to be a candle, burning brightly, slowly melting (count back from 10)
 - > learn to articulate through verbal expression: say ‘The sun is shining’ in the following ways – happily, sadly, angrily, joyfully, tiredly, enthusiastically, desperately, surprisingly, doubtfully, bravely, shyly...Then move on to improvising/enacting a story related to today’s theme ‘joyfulness’:
 - > The example from the book is about a group of 3 friends, preparing for a Naw-Ruz celebration. When one of them hurts her ankle and can’t be there to help finishing the preparations they are worried they might not finish everything, but then think of her and remember that the best way to help those that are unwell is to bring joy to their hearts. They visit her every day and by the time Naw-ruz arrives, her ankle’s healed and they carry out the programme together.
- > **Craft/art** to remember today’s story, make beautiful flowers out of tissue paper and pipe cleaners, scent them with rosewater. Or paint flowers on paper, cut them out and tape them to wooden skewers, arrange a few in a vase for a beautiful bouquet.
- > clean up
- > **Closing Prayers:** let children say prayers they know off by heart

Joy

By Nancy Ward

To be sung in a round:

A E
Joy, joy, joy, joy is in the air

A E
Love, love, love, love is everywhere

A E
Listen, listen all created things

A E
Listen, listen all created things

story

“On another occasion when Leroy and his father were going to see ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Leroy stopped to buy a large bouquet of white carnations. But as they went into the hotel he decided not to give the flowers to the Master. His father said the Master loved flowers and would be pleased. “I know He does,” Leroy replied. “But I’m not going to take them. I come to the Master offering Him my heart and I don’t want Him to think I am currying favour. He knows the condition of a person’s heart and that is all that I have to offer.” So his father presented the flowers to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and as the Master sat talking, He held them, touched them, in a typical gesture buried His face in them to smell the fragrance.

When He finished speaking He stood up and shook hands with everyone; to each He gave one of the carnations. When there were only a few left Leroy thought Oh! I wish he would turn around and shake hands with me before they are all gone. Just as he thought this, the Master turned and looked at him. Then He gave him a small red rose that He pulled from His coat. As He did so, it pricked the skin of His finger and Leroy received that precious rose with a bit of the Master’s blood on it. In 1952 in his farewell talk, Leroy said “and I still have it.”

Ioas Chapman, Anita: *Leroy Ioas Hand of the Cause of God*, p. 23

Teacher’s Note: The story is slightly different in Ruhi Book 3a –read it there on page 30.



Description
Leroy C. Ioas (1896-1965)

Source
<http://media.bahai.org/subjects/7919/details>