

CARPE DIEM

It's not the big day, it's everyday!

Level: Middle School **Time:** 1-2 Class Periods **Topic:** It's everyday!

Essential Questions:

1. What does it mean to seize the day? (carpe diem)
2. How can seizing the day change your future?
3. How did Welles' choices prior to 9/11 motivate his actions on that day?
4. What are choices you are making today?

Lesson Goals and Objectives:

1. Students will analyze a series of quotes and decide which applies to them.
2. Students will list the obstacles that stand in their way from seizing the day.
3. Students will identify ways in which Welles overcame obstacles.
4. Students will decide on what they can do to overcome obstacles.
5. Students will create their own carpe diem philosophy.

Key Terms:

Carpe diem
Obstacles
Perceived
Attributes

Materials:

Video of The Man in the Red Bandanna Video,
Quotes (attached)

Background:

Students should have basic knowledge of the events of 9/11

Evidence of Understanding

1. Students can write a class or individual action plan on their carpe diem. This can be posted and discussed.
2. Students should write a journal entry on what they can do within the limitations of their lives to prepare every day for the future.
3. Students should present their carpe diem action plans.
4. Students should go back to their quotes and discuss if, or what, changes would need to be made to their previous choices. They should also reevaluate their carpe diem statement.

Extension Activities

1. Students can create a bulletin board showing how people prepared for the roles they played. These can include famous people, family etc.

Carpe Diem Exercise

Choose the quote that is closest to what you believe and explain why. Then choose the quote that is the opposite of what you believe and explain why.

1. "The future depends on what you do today." - Gandhi
2. "It's not the big day, it's everyday." - M. Mastrande
3. "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has yet to come. We only have today. Let us begin." - Mother Teresa
4. "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all." - Helen Keller
5. "Life is what you make it. Always has been, always will be."
-Eleanor Roosevelt
6. "We are the change we have been waiting for." - Barack Obama
7. "The future starts today, not tomorrow." – Pope Saint John Paul II
8. "Appreciate what you have before time makes you appreciate what you had."
- Ruth Buzzi

Create your own statement on carpe diem: