

7. Our Riches

This activity examines perspectives on quality of life and on how we are ultimately “all the same.”



Materials Needed:

Video “Fragile” (DVD player)

Book “**Lotsa de Casha**” by Madonna

Teachers should preview all video content before screening it for students. Before use, consider classroom and community sensitivities, and age-appropriateness.

Fragile

Fragile is a music video performed by young, talented Amanda Falk to lyrics and music written by Amanda Falk. The music is powerful and depicts motivating and thoughtful imagery of hunger, homelessness and poverty from around the world.

Length: five minutes

Throughout the world, there are diverse cultural and social perspectives regarding quality of life.

Share the following quote with students:

“Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money.”

Author: unknown

Discuss its meaning and implications with the class.

Divide the board in half vertically and write “RICH” on one side and “POOR” on the other. Ask students for their ideas on these two terms. Initially, they will probably focus on money and material wealth.

Read aloud “**Lotsa de Casha**” by Madonna.

Continue the discussion of richness and poverty using the context of the story to clarify the terms. Broaden the discussion to ensure that all aspects of the terms rich and poor are discussed. Some things to examine include:

Richness in terms of friends, happiness, culture or seeing a beautiful view.

Poverty of experiences, opportunities, loneliness or polluted environment.



Discuss the notion that many people around the world are both rich and poor. For instance, in this country a family may have a car, but one of them may suffer from asthma related to pollution of the air due to industry in their city. In Bhutan, Asia, a family may not have a car, but they do have a beautiful, clean environment. Encourage students to think of ways in which they are both rich and poor.

Play the video “**Fragile.**” Whether we are rich or poor, are we “all the same?”

Teacher Notes:

