

Navigating the Island of Aggression

Lesson 6a: Rage vs. Moral Fury

Key concepts:

- Moral fury is a feeling of distress about injustice or wrongdoing.
- Moral fury is a fire that can motivate us to act toward creating a better world.
- Strategy helps us to turn moral fury into effective action toward change.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students identify moral fury as a natural response to injustice or wrongdoing.
- Students identify their own feelings of moral fury.

Profile of Graduate Standards:

- Upper Elementary, Creative Thinking and Problem Solving: (5) I identify a problem and propose a solution.
- Middle School, Creative Thinking and Problem Solving: (2.1) I recognize the need for valid reasoning and strong evidence.

Materials:

- Ship's Log
- Laptop, Chromebook, or iPad
- Projector or other way to display a digital slideshow
- Slides and digital exit ticket, available at
- peaceliteracy.org/navigation-curricular-materials

Vocabulary:

- Moral fury
- Effective strategy

Lesson Procedure:

1. **Show** slide 1. Title slide.
2. **Show** slide 2. Housefire
3. “We have talked about aggression as being like heat from a fire that can rage out of control. When that happens, it can damage the people we love, and things we care about. It is like a house on fire, dangerous, and potentially harmful. But there are times when distress is a natural and normal response. When we see or feel injustice, disrespect, or discrimination, we can feel a natural distress that burns within us. There is a name for that distress. It is called **moral fury**. Moral fury is a feeling of distress about injustice or wrongdoing.”

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Lesson Procedure, Continued:

8. “When we see people or animals being hurt or treated badly, we can feel moral fury.
9. **Show** slide 3. Road
“We can channel this moral fury, fire, in two directions. One direction is aggression, which we also described as Ares, or a small toolbox. The other direction is alternatives to aggression, which we described as Athena, or a large toolbox.”
10. **Show** slide 4. Piston
11. “The fire can burn our house down, or it can work for us. It can propel us into action for change, like a fire in an engine. Moral fury in and of itself won’t solve problems, because moral fury is not a strategy, but it can motivate us to find solutions and overcome what seem like impossible odds.”
12. **Show** slide 5. Fireplace
13. “Moral fury channeled into action toward peace can become like fire in a fireplace. It can be comforting and protective.”
14. **Question** for students:
Are there things you have seen, heard about, or experienced that have caused you to feel moral fury? Write about it in your log. You can make a short list. Then, pick one item and write a paragraph, or draw a picture about it.
15. **Regroup** and give an opportunity for students who would like to share.

Digital Exit Ticket:

- What is moral fury?
- What are the two options you have when dealing with moral fury?