

“Pangingsida”

Peace Concept: ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE

I. OBJECTIVES

- A. To be able to define environmental peace;
- B. To be able to discuss the connection between the natural environment and peace in one’s life.

II. SUMMARY OF EPISODE

Ato, a 13-year-old boy, does not care about cleaning the sea shore as much as his father; but his attitude changes when his much-loved duck, Switik, almost dies because of an environmental crisis.

Ato’s father is a fisherman and they live in a village beside the sea. His father is very concerned about pollution and properly taking care of the environment. When he and his father would walk by the seashore, he would make sure that they cleaned along the way before going home. Ato avoids going with his father because he does not like to do the cleaning. One day, the neighboring town is plagued with an oil spill. The fishermen in Ato’s village help to clean up the mess but shortly after, the oil reaches their own shoreline. The whole village suffers because there are no more fish to catch. Some of their pets and livestock are also affected by the oil spill. This includes Ato and Lorena’s pet duck, Switik. He gets very sad thinking that Switik may not survive. It is then that Ato realizes what his father believes in. He understands why his father tries to take care of the sea so much. He realizes that when the natural environment is in a mess, one’s life also loses its peaceful balance and order.

III. SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

A. Pre-viewing

Just like Ato in the episode, it was not easy to understand the impact of our environment on our lives until we feel the effects of a crisis. To introduce environmental peace as a peace concept, it would help if children could observe how their environment is connected to them.

Appreciation Walk

Take the children out for a walk to observe their environment. In pairs, ask

them to answer the following:

- List 10 different kinds of plants or flowers that they see.
- What is the weather like? How was it different from yesterday?
- Observe a coconut tree and write down everything that we could use from this tree.
- Imagine when there is no sun, what do you think will happen?

The results of their observations will be very interesting for discussion. Give each pair a chance to share their answers. It is important to emphasize how much we depend on our environment. Introduce the episode by saying that just like them, Ato, a young boy learned the importance of our environment. Let us learn how he was able to understand the importance of caring for our environment.

B. Post-viewing

The following questions for discussion are being suggested:

1. What happened to the sea? Why weren’t there fish left for the fishermen to catch?

2. What made Ato change his attitude about cleaning the seashore?

3. How is taking care of our environment related to having a peaceful life?

After the discussion it would help the children deepen their realization by learning the current state of our natural environment. What are the local, national or global problems we are facing? What are the potential effects of these environmental problems on us? What efforts are being made to address these problems?

Being Part of the Solution

Make them think of ways they could really do to help in resolving these problems. The following are general areas they can focus on:

- Clean -put litter in the garbage can, regularly clean our own bedroom or classroom, empty containers of stagnant water and others.
- Save - use water, gas, electricity, food, paper and others properly.

- Buy - differentiate what we need from what we want, try to use environmentally-friendly products.
- Recycle - use the other side of paper, bring empty bottles, cans and newspapers to junk shops.

Interview

Divide the group into 5-7 members and ask them to organize an interview. One member will be the host of the show, two will be the guests and the rest will be the audience. The host will interview the guests about how to take care of our natural environment. The audience will also be given a chance to ask their own personal questions. The role-playing of an interview is to present what they have learned about environmental peace as a peace concept.

Journal Writing

Encourage them to write their experiences including their opinion, insights, feelings about the peace concept that they have learned. They could also use their Peace Journal to make a plan on how they will put into practice what they have learned in their daily lives.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE AS PEACE CONCEPTS

Sometimes we meet a real person like Ato’s father who makes a difference by doing his part in taking care of our environment. Ato’s father understood deeply that garbage when accumulated translates to environmental problem or an ecological imbalance. He also knew how much such imbalance affects one’s life. Environmental peace is living in harmony with our natural environment.

Green peace is a global movement that protects the earth. It is a wide spectrum of concerted efforts of people all over the world to preserve ecological balance. This peace concept broadens our definition of peace that includes our environment as an important factor in creating harmony in our lives. Its essence is having respect for our natural environment and understanding our place in the web of life.