

The Kingdom of Peace



*An Enchanting Tale of the Qualities of Peace
from Children at the Peaslee Center in Over-the-Rhine*

INTRODUCTION

CHILDREN ENGAGING COMPASSION is a project of S.O.S. Art and Peaslee Neighborhood Center.

Over the course of a week, children worked with artist C. Pic Michel and writer Andrea Nichols (WWF(a)CF) to learn about values of compassion, caring, sharing, free giving, respect and appreciation of others through the creation of art and writing. The purpose was to help instill these values and make them tangible and actively present in the children's thinking and behavior.

The project was funded by The Greater Cincinnati Foundation Summertime Kids grant, the Fine Arts Fund, and Women Writing For (a) Change Foundation, with an in-kind contribution from C. Pic Michel to photo document, design and organize this book.

S.O.S. Art is an organization that promotes social/political expression. Peaslee Neighborhood Center is a peaceful place where Over-the-Rhine residents create and participate in dialogue-based educational programs that foster creative expression, self-determination, personal voice, and social change.

Women Writing for (a) Change Foundation's mission is to foster a healthy writing community where the words of women and girls from all walks of life are nurtured, developed, and celebrated. Funding for the foundation is provided by the City of Cincinnati, the Ohio Arts Council, the Tomcinoh Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the Manuel D and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation.



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Once upon a time Miss Evil and Mr. Anger fulfilled their plan to destroy the Kingdom of Peace.

Miss Evil invited all of the townspeople to a party that wasn't really a party. Her party was actually a war.

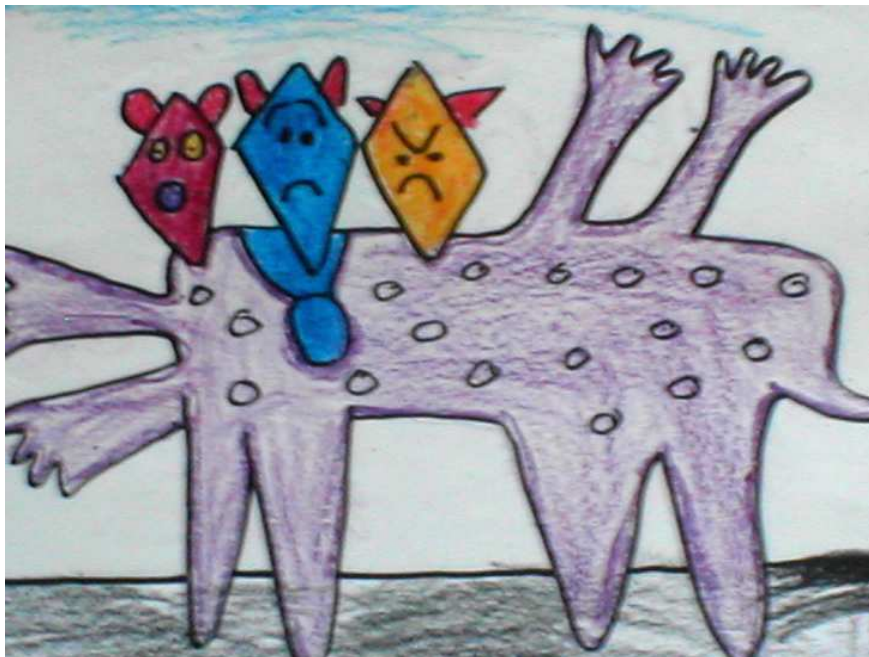


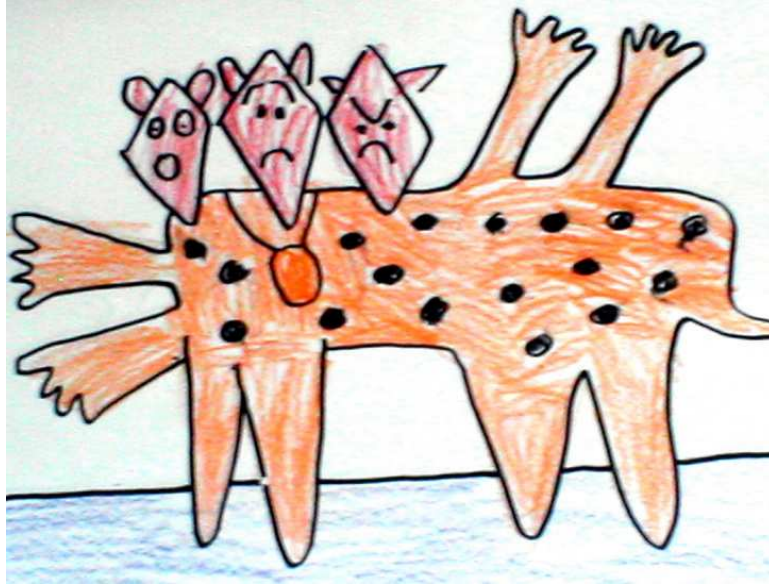
They also invited the Prince because they really wanted to lock him in prison because they knew he would do anything to save the Kingdom.



All they had to do to trap him was to tell him that they didn't like him over and over and pretend that they weren't really going to invite him to their party because once they did this,

he turned into a beast called Mr. Death.





Mr. Death bit a lot of people before they locked him in the prison.



Lots of the townspeople lost their lives at Miss Evil's party that was really a war.

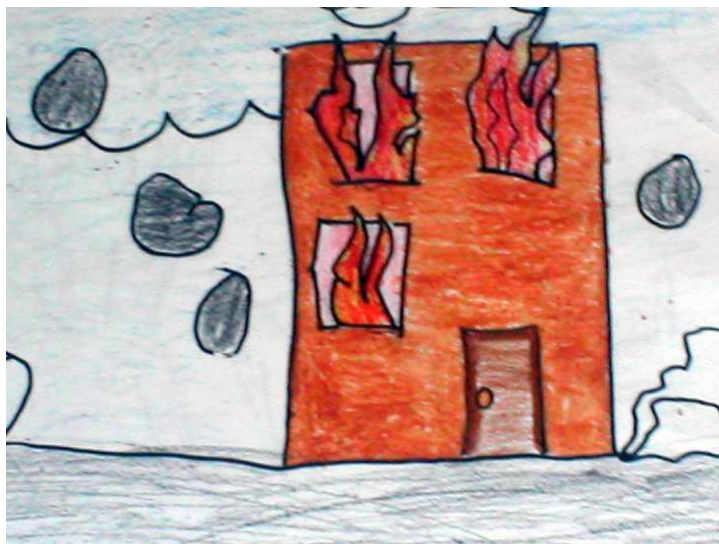
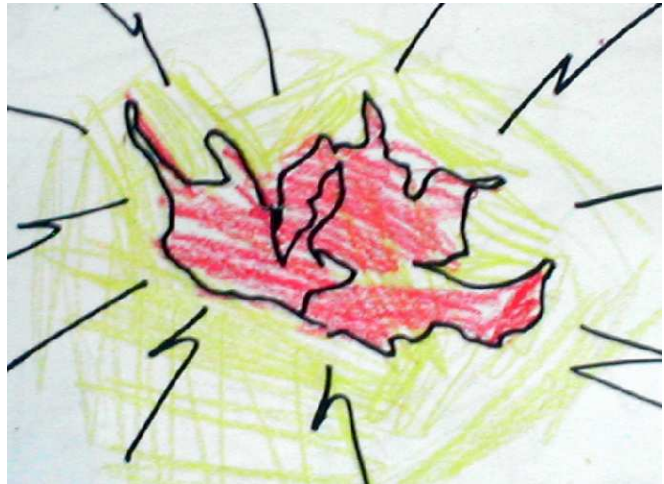




While Miss Evil was hosting her so-called party, Mr. Anger destroyed the rest of the town. He cut the ropes to the bridge across the river so no one could get out.

He kicked in the doors to homes and let dogs loose to eat everything up. All of the blue and red houses were knocked down into piles of rubble.

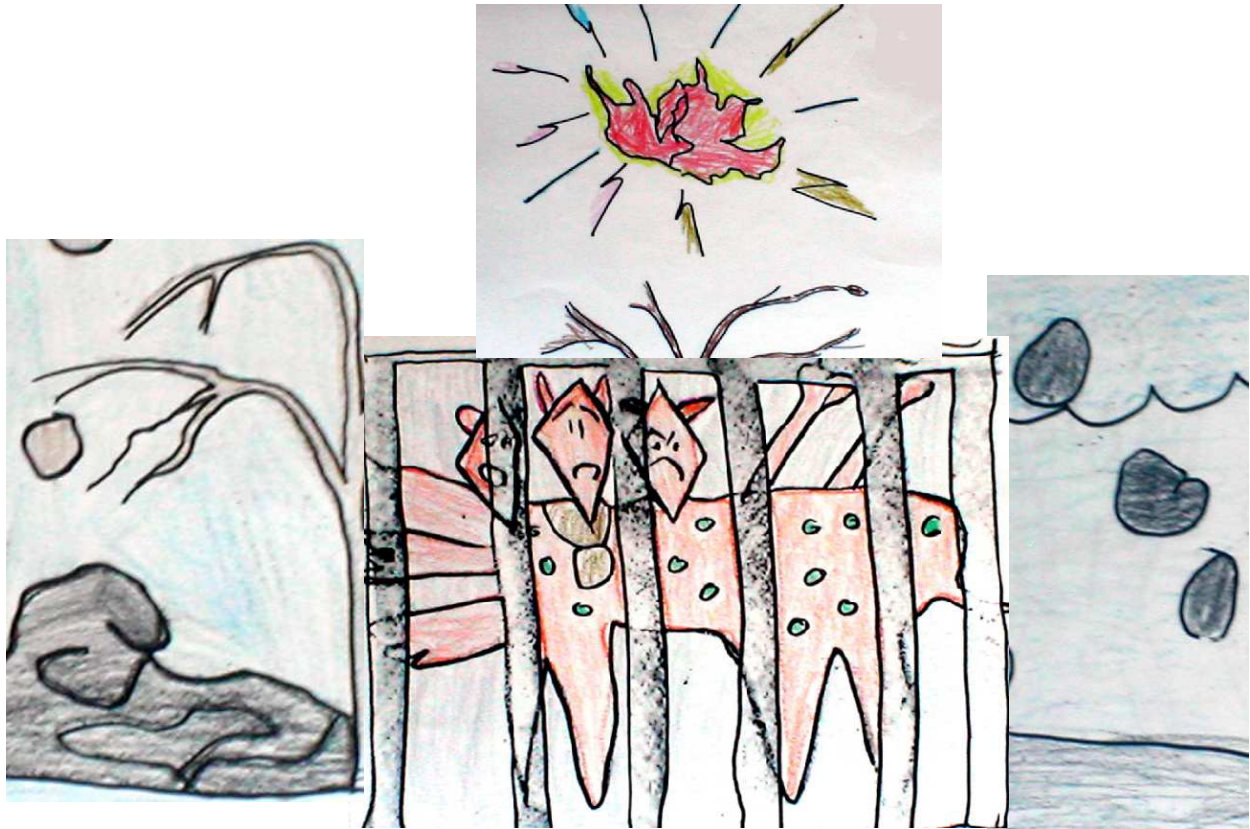
The people tried to fight back but Mr. Anger turned the sun into fire and the thunder into rocks and they came down out of the sky to destroy everything in their way.



Mr. Anger even turned the buildings into robots that smashed cars.

When Mr. Anger and Miss Evil were finished the only thing left in the Kingdom of Peace were busted windows, and dead trees.





Everything fell into a pile of rubble and the Prince was locked in prison.



At the top of a hill on the other side of the river,

Ms. Kindness and Mr. Forgiveness surveyed the damage.

They felt sad for their Kingdom and had to do something to save it.



Mr. Forgiveness

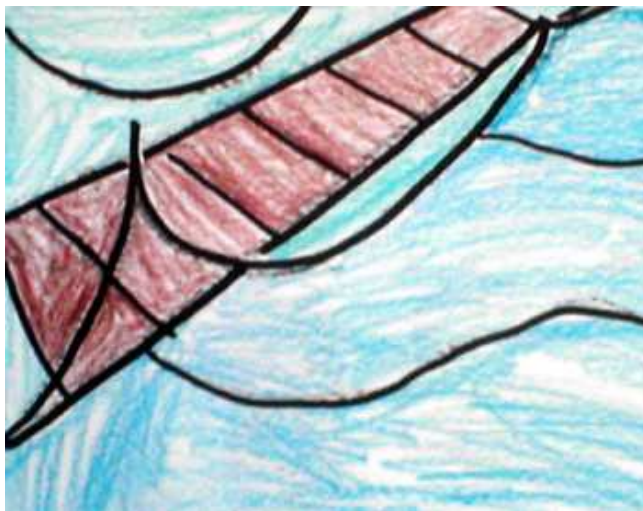
reached in his pocket

and found love and

Ms. Kindness pulled
some sympathy out of

her purse and they began their job of fixing the kingdom.

They cleaned up the rocks and stacked them in the river for people to climb on so they could get out and Ms. Kindness used her helping rope to rebuild the bridge.



Mr. Forgiveness put the fire back in the clouds and gave it back to the sun. Mr. Forgiveness knew how to use rain to cleanse and put out fires.

He used the old wood from the bridge to get people out of the water and to rebuild their houses. He cut down the dead trees and planted new ones.





Mr. Forgiveness used lots of love to rebuild the castle. The bricks were made out of generosity and sympathy.

Ms. Kindness and Mr. Forgiveness loved everyone they came in contact with to nurse them back to health.



As they walked through the town loving everyone and putting lotion on their hurts they found the key of kindness to get the Prince out of prison.



On their way to the prison they bumped into Mr. Anger and Miss Evil.



Mr. Forgiveness forgave them right away and Ms. Kindness wished that they could have lots of friends. They invited Mr. Anger and Miss Evil to their car for a ride and to give them a drink of magic water that had flowers of truth in it. Ms. Kindness grew these flowers in her garden, and they always made people nicer.





Mr. Anger took a drink and turned into Mr. Generosity and went to help rebuild the castle.



Miss Evil took a drink and turned into Ms. Humor and went to plan a real party.





When Ms. Kindness and Mr. Forgiveness used the key of kindness to let Mr. Death out of the prison, his first words to them were "Thank-you."



They said,
"You're Welcome."

He immediately turned
back into a prince.



They promised to always make him feel better whenever he felt sad so he wouldn't turn into a beast again and all three of them helped Mr. Anger and Miss Evil stay good by respecting them and being nice to them. They all worked together to make the Kingdom better.



That night they got to have a real party at Ms. Humor's house and she served them coffee and everyone told jokes.



The End

***CHARACTER* DEVELOPMENT**

All of the characters and events in our story were determined by the children.

Guided by prompts, the youth focused on specific qualities as attributes (citizens, heros, adversaries) of peace and used words, clay, and crayon colored drawings to define and develop their story.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT



Miss Kindness

(we had 2 looks for Miss Kindness developed by different groups so we decided to use them both. There's no wrong way to be kind.)

Kindness wears gold bracelets with red hearts, and diamonds. She wears lucky boots because she loses things. She doesn't hurt animals and gives back things that are lost. She takes care of hurt animals and braids people's hair. Kindness would marry Kindness and Truth. She sends money to the president and to the needy. Kindness carries sunshine, love, tolerance, feelings, humor, sympathy, truth and generosity in her purse. Kindness is there for everyone when they are hurt. She puts lotion on ashy skin, builds poor people homes, and helps Africans get food. She can sense when people are in need. Her flowers are white and red roses made in her garden. She gives them to mothers and for birthday presents. She builds mansions for the homeless. She is 31 but you can be kind no matter how old you are.

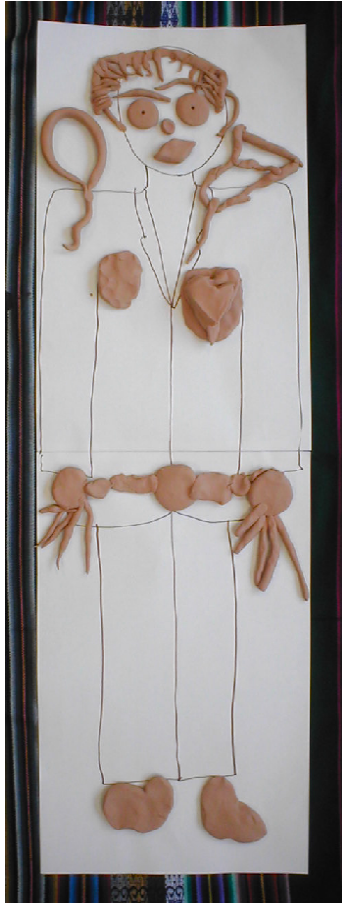
She is happy and smiles. Kindness plays with both boys and girls and protects them and keeps them safe. She makes all their hurts feel better. She helps kittens out of trees. Kindness sounds like tapping feet, beautiful singing, running water, the ocean and the seashore, the wind, whales singing, and dolphins singing.

She gives people rides to work when their cars are broken down or when it rains. She wishes for everyone to have friends, for everyone to help everyone, and for kids to have good grades. She has a special ball to bounce mean people back into the river. She can see through walls to keep us away from thieves.

Kindness is friends with sympathy, beauty, and honor. Her enemies are evil and disrespect.



CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT



Mr. Forgiveness

Forgiveness wears pants and suit. On Mondays he wears a white tuxedo. On Tuesday he wears pink roses. On Wednesday he wears a tie with wheels. On Thursdays he wears grey dress clothes, and on Fridays he wears a black tuxedo with a white rose in the pocket. He is very tall.

Forgiveness is giving. When you bump into him he listens when you say you are sorry. He drives people home, and helps kids cross the street. He helps moms with their babies. He wants to tell everyone to stop fighting and be friends. If husbands and wives fight he takes them to anger management. He might take kids to the principal's office.

He carries love in his pockets along with sunshine, clouds and rain. He carries a badge and tells people to give things back. He helps the poor with his money, and he donates it to Food For Thought.

His house doesn't have blinds because when people look in he forgives them. He has a big front door with no lock. It is brown because it is his favorite color.

Forgiveness is friends with Miss Kindness, Ms. Truth and Mr. Tolerance. His boss at work is Ms. Patience. His enemies are Mr. Hate and Mr. Anger. (But he forgives them too.)

Mr. Death

He needs to be forgiven. He didn't get forgiven. He hurt a woman. He bit Mrs. Kindness, Ms. Truth and Mr. Honor. He like humans to eat and God told him not to and if he stops he will turn into a king. He has an angry face because he did not get forgiven. He has a sad face because he doesn't get invited to parties because he is mean. People hurt his feelings. He's trying to be nice like a prince to get invited to the party. He turns back into a beast when people tell him they don't like him. His house is a half house and he lives downstairs. His money is under his house. His house has white walls with blood red designs.

