Diana Rissetto

Tolerance Story Plan

Audience: 4th grade class
Atlantic Highlands Elementary School

Name of Story: *The Butterfly* by Patricia Polacco

Tolerance themes: confidence
Friendship
Everyone's important
Respect for differences

**First Step**

Hi, I'm Diana. Today I'm going to tell you a story called *The Butterfly*...it is a book written by a lady named Patricia Polacco, but I'm not going to read it to you, I'm going to tell it to you my own way. While I'm telling you guys the story, I'd like you to be quiet and listen, but if you have any questions, please raise your hands.

**Second Step**

How many of you guys are Jewish? How many of you know somebody who is Jewish? I'm not Jewish, I'm Catholic. When I was your age, I went to a Catholic school. All my friends were Catholic as well. I moved away, and started going to another school. I made a lot of new friends that were Jewish...and Hindu, and Presbyterian, and some that even had two different religions because their parents were two separate religions. And even though we all had different religions, we were still all fourth-graders that were interested in the same stuff.

**Third Step**

Story Set up:
This story is about a horrible time in history, World War II. During this time, some very bad people were doing bad things to other people. The Nazis were bad German soldiers that wanted to get all of the Jewish people out of Europe...however, even though there were a lot of bad people, there were still a lot of good people who wanted to help the Jews. This story is about a little French girl named Monique and how she helped another little French girl who was also Jewish, Sevrine.

**Fourth Step**

Mid-story question:
Can you remember a time when your parents did something that confused you or made you angry and then you realized it was because they loved you and wanted to protect you?
Let’s take a few moments as you tell your neighbor about your experience and how it made you feel. (after a few minutes, instruct kids to switch telling/itening roles.)

Return to the story

Fifth Step

After telling discussion questions:

How would you have felt if you were Monique and found Sevrine and her family living in her home?

Would you have risked your safety to help people like Sevrine in her family?

What do you think happened to Sevrine and her family after they got to Switzerland?

Have any of you studied World War II in school? Have any of you heard of Anne Frank, whose story is a lot like Sevrine’s?

Sixth Step

Description of activity:

The 4th graders will be given a piece of paper with a butterfly drawn in one corner, a paw print in another, and the words “Je Vis!” written across the top. They will be allowed to color in the pictures if they want, then asked to write a letter from Sevrine to Monique telling her what has happened to her since they were separated and telling her how she felt to have left. Sevrine can also thank Monique for all she and her mother did for her.

Seventh Step

Wrap up/Closure

What did you learn today?
Who will you share this story with? Why?
What did you like about this story?
Would you like to do this again?

Final statement

Thank you for letting me share this story with you, I hope you had a good a time as I did and that you’ll share this storytelling experience with your friends and family. Enjoy the rest of your day!