



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Steiner Education nourishes child's feeling life and fosters the development of Emotional Literacy.

Home surroundings, Nature Studies and Geography all awaken the child's sensitivity and engender respect and a feeling of responsibility for the well-being of all life in our environment.

Story has a seminal role to play in the development of the feeling life. "The soul is a many stringed instrument" (Hafiz/Persian poet), and story causes its strings to vibrate. When the child walks with Glooskap he joys in creation. When he participates in cunning with Loki, he puffs himself up arrogantly, and when he's on the mountaintop with Lemikainen and the fiery wild horse is tamed with love, he softens with gratitude.

Story empowers the child and assists him to craft his moral compass. Immersed in the story contents he sifts through values and seeds his own character development, expands his emotional literacy skills and sharpens his sense of social responsibility.

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Emotional Literacy has its roots in presence-ing, and story has the power and the magic to presence the child in a myriad of places with flocks of timeless people in whose midst he begins to understand the language of the soul, that beautiful/ dark /shining /frightening /fierce /delicately nuanced speech that takes a lifetime of learning.

The child lives via story into pictures of patience, of tolerance, of jealousy, greed, courage, resilience... the list goes on and on. He begins to track, in story, the potentials of these soul moods.

Slowly he learns to recognize "the weather within" and find healthy ways to express his feelings.

... to gradually understand the signs of "the weather" in the Other

... to meet the feelings of the Other in an open and responsive way.

... to build meaningful relationships, to cope with disagreement and to develop skills in conflict resolution.

When Writing and Artwork emerge from story, the child is able to sink a little deeper into the potent imagery... Be Theseus and be honourable and courageous... Be Jason at the clashing rocks and be resolute and resilient... Be Odysseus and be confident and unyielding...

Steiner's vision of education was broad and deep. His vision of community was expansive and to the concept of social responsibility he gave new depth.

*"The healthy social life is found
when in the mirror of each human soul
the whole community finds its reflection
and when in the community
the virtue of each one is living."*

From Ruth – Education Coordinator