Fair Trade Lesson - PreK3 through 2nd Grade Group Guidance

Source: Media-Providence Friends School

1. Ask students what the things are that we need to survive/to stay alive.

Book: Needs by Brenda Parkes

Food, water, clothing, shelter, love

1. Read Zapizapu Crosses the Sea…a story about being fair by Diane Abad Vergara

Summary: Two children cannot attend school in a beautiful land far away because the $ their father earns growing zapizapu is not enough to cover the rent plus food and education. Being able to drink clean water, have a few toys and visit the doctor are not possible on limited money either. In a different land, two children hear about this unfairness for hardworking growers of the plant that provides a drink they love. They tell their parents and friends about this injustice and the word spreads so that more people become interested in paying a fair price for the product. It changes the growers’ lives and the village celebrates this change.

To act out the story--Divide class into two groups and separate them physically in two parts of the room to indicate distance. Use play money and cups as props. After the story ends with celebration, process the activity:

* What were the growers and their families celebrating?
* What is different now for Santiago and Maria? How did they feel when they could not attend school? What are their feelings now that they are able to attend?
* How did two children who heard their story make a difference? Are you able to make a difference like they did by telling others to buy Fair Trade products?

1. Review Basic Needs of People

Are the basic needs of the farmers able to be met when others pay a fair price for their products?

It is important that we care about others having enough to eat, drink, a place to live safely and be with their families.