

TUESDAY

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ACADEMIC LESSON

STORY TO BEGIN THE DAY (READ BY AN ADULT)

Hippolyte, 11 years old

It's still strange to do home school with the computer open. Sometimes it prevents me from concentrating because I would prefer to joke around with Rebecca and Antonio, but hey, it must be even stranger for them. What makes me really sad and even angry is that they are not allowed to leave their home at all. Rebecca told me that I shouldn't be angry since it's for a good reason. They live in very populated cities, so if everyone went out to get some fresh air at the same time, it could spread the illness, which is exactly what we are trying to avoid. But it still makes me angry, I don't know why. In fact, I get angry anytime we are not allowed to do something, it's the worst! Even if it doesn't directly concern me, it annoys me, it makes me boil inside. It doesn't mean that I'm mad at anyone in particular, but it's hard when things burn like that in me ...

Antonio was also very moody. What he really likes in life is playing outside with his friends on the street outside his house or in the playground. He always invents new games, everyone on his street loves him, I saw it when we visited him. But now he has not seen his friends for nine days and he's falling apart a little. When

we started the video call the first thing he said was that he didn't want to do homeschool. He wanted to go play outside! His mother sighed. She was breastfeeding Paloma. I tried to think of something to say to calm him down but I wasn't calm at all either, so nothing came. And the others didn't dare to speak, because when Antonio is like that, I think he scares them a little.

Fortunately, Camille ended up asking him in her soft voice what he had done the day before after our call. When she has her voice like that, no one can respond angrily to her. So, he became a little politer again and he mumbled something about inventing a game.

At that Lucia became very excited and said,

"Yes, he got us to lie on the floor in the apartment and close our eyes and imagine that we were lying on the back of a huge round giant, so, so, so big: the size of the whole earth! And it is the earth! I almost felt her breathing you know!"

Antonio had a little smile and his mother told us that after that, they all danced together while their father played the violin and they imagined that they were the wind around the earth, and they pretended that Manolito was the earth so they made him take on lots of different forms, sometimes his knee was a mountain, sometimes he became a hill, and the winds danced around him, in short, they had a lot of fun! It really calmed me to hear that, I wasn't so angry anymore.

Then Rebecca said,

"We did a tiny walk around the neighborhood yesterday but we couldn't even get near the park because there were too many people around! But Laurie was so funny, he kept stopping as if he was listening to the earth with his feet and he said to me, "She is moving, she moves you know, she is alive!"

It made us all laugh. Laurie can be so cute sometimes.

Solange said to them, "We couldn't feel the earth moving, because there is still snow on it ..."

"Don't be silly, it's anyways impossible to feel it", said Rebecca.

I was upset and said, "She's not silly, she's funny! You're the silly one, if you put down a little girl!"

Mom silenced us and I took Solange by the hand and she looked consoled immediately.

Antonin then said, "When you think about it, it's funny anyway to walk on snow ... We don't really walk on the ground of the earth during winter, we are raised above it, it's as if we are walking on water, since snow is water..."

Lucien's eyes shone like stars and he said, "But yes! And it's really a thick layer of water that separates us from the ground you know. In the middle of winter, it even covers the benches!"

"Yes," said Camille, "and also it completely changes the landscape. The ground does not really have the same shape anymore, in some places it is higher, under the trees a little lower, and the river is much lower. And it is difficult to know exactly where it begins because it is covered with ice and snow."

Leonie sighed, "Yes, you have to be careful, I always tell them not to approach the river, the ice could crack."

"That's right," I said. "One day, I was approaching a big rock, I thought I was by the river, and mom told me to come back to her carefully and quickly, which annoyed me. But then she said to remember how far the river extended this summer and I suddenly realized that the rock that I wanted to go to was in the water! You couldn't tell at all because of the snow! The summer before I used to climb on it to jump into the water and now I was thinking it was in the middle of the beach!"

"Me," said Solange, "I obey mom, but in reality, I don't think it is that dangerous to walk on the river ... I even saw deer tracks that went everywhere on the ice!"

"But Solange, deer are much lighter than us," I said. "It does happen that people fall into the river while they believe they are walking on solid ice, you know. It happened to a child I know from the village. And after the current can be so strong that you can get carried away! Fortunately, his dad was just nearby and he caught up with him right away!"

"Yes," said mom, "that's why children should never play outside alone in winter here, especially near a river."

"Well me, when there is no virus, I can play alone on my street," said Antonio very happily.

I was happy for him.

For children under the age of eight, you could stop reading here.

If you continue reading for older children, the younger ones can at this point change activities for example they can draw a picture of the story or play calmly.

MEMORIZATION

(AROUND 10 MINUTES)

Ask the children to tell you what they learned the day before and what they wrote in their notebooks (without opening them).

READING

(AROUND 30 MINUTES)

Depending on your child's reading level, you can ask him to read the text (partly silently and partly out loud), or you can read it to him, or alternate reading it out loud.

When he reads it out loud, help him follow the punctuation (pause when there is a period, give expression to exclamation and question marks, etc.)

Mom started the lesson by saying,

"You made nice comments children. Where we live the ground on which we walk is transformed every year in winter. Right now, it's all frozen because it rained on the snow and then it became very cold, so it's difficult to walk, there are lots of irregularities and it's slippery ... But tonight, it's snowing and tomorrow will be entirely different. In winter we always walk on snow, but it is not always the same snow. Sometimes it is very powdery and light, sometimes we sink in and we can't run, sometimes it is very firm, sometimes it squeaks under our feet, sometimes it clings to boots, sometimes it is perfect for sliding and skiing... The Natives have many words to distinguish the many different qualities of snow. Over here it becomes our ground in winter, a ground that changes a lot.

But then when it melts, it doesn't immediately become like the ground in summer. The earth has been affected by almost six months of carrying snow, it doesn't just stay the same as if it were steel, not at all! Everything that froze compressed the ground, it made cracks, sometimes holes ... It is difficult in Quebec for example to keep an outdoor roller-skating path as smooth as in France."

"But you don't need to roller skate," said Lucia, "you can ski all the time!"

We laughed because she only came to visit us in winter. We realized that she had never seen the snowless ground over here.

I told her,

"But you're right anyway, we do so much sliding in winter, so in summer we do other things, we especially like to go swimming in the lakes."

"You're so lucky!" said Lucia who loves to swim.

"We are lucky too!" protested Antonio who loves being the luckiest. "We have the sea in Spain, and it is warmer than where you live!"

Mom smiled and said,

"There are places where we can see the transformation of the landscape better than in others. The landscape changes so much in a year here in Quebec, even in a week sometimes. When the ice is melting for example, the river becomes so full and powerful that it overflows and the banks become completely covered, it's amazing! It of course changes less in Paris, in Madrid too..."

"We also have the Seine which sometimes overflows," said Laurie proudly.

"That's right," said mom. "But if we compare with Quebec, there are much less changes, ground movements, cracks, floods, and all such things. Often we chose to build the first big cities in places where the landscape is rather stable."

"Or the opposite," said Camille. "It's the presence of human beings that made the landscape stable, who knows?"

"It's true that human beings sometimes transform the landscape enormously. We'll talk about it another day," said mom. "Do you remember what we learned yesterday? Can someone give me a nice summary of the lesson?"

"Yes!" exclaimed Charlotte "The earth is an architect, moreover it moves continuously, it is alive and its surface evolves, mostly very slowly, and its

sculptors are wind, water, heat, cold and other forces of nature, which sculpt mountains and rocks."

Mom congratulated her and added,

"It is not only these natural forces that gradually transform the ground where we live. There is also something that grows on the earth and that acts enormously on the landscape."

"I know, it's the trees!" I screamed.

"Yup, the trees. In fact, erosion depends a lot on the trees. If there are no trees, erosion happens much faster. Especially on sloping terrain, such as hills, cliffs, and river banks. You can even sometimes see it in a forest, after a storm, the ground has dropped or it has run out like muddy water, except at the level of the roots which have retained it. But when there are no trees or very few, the soil can collapse completely and become a desert ... The good fertile soils are washed away and harvests are much more difficult and little by little nothing grows. The rain takes the soil away to the rivers. And it also changes the beds of the rivers and around the rivers, they can become shallower and cloudier and overflowing along the edges. In fact, without any trees, if it rains, the soil erodes so much that it can even destroy roads and highways in regions where many trees have been cut down!"

"Oh, but in that case, why did they cut the trees?" I asked.

"Sometimes the people who cut these trees did not know the effect it would have... They cut them to make new fields for example, and they did not necessarily expect the effects it would have. Fortunately, now we know that we have to be careful about that."

"But then you must not cut any trees!" cried Solange. "Why does dad cut trees sometimes?"

"When you cut trees, you have to do it intelligently. Sometimes it can help the forest that we cut some of them so that others have more space. And if we had never cut trees, we would never have built houses in the end."

We laughed.

Mom said,

"The important thing is to know what we are doing. It is never to the advantage of human beings not to work intelligently with nature. If you cut too many trees to the point of causing rapid soil erosion, this is a big problem, not only for nature but also for humans. Life becomes very difficult for farmers because the land is less fertile, and for fishermen because the rivers are shallower and less navigable. Besides, the river is the home of the fish and it smothers their eggs if too much soil flows into the river. And that is sad for the fish but also for the fishermen and all those who feed on fish. So, when you act on the landscape, you have to remember the importance of trees. With their roots, they keep the soil in place, and with their leaves, they regulate the temperature and they keep the air clean."

We should always keep the balance. In some areas, if you cut too many trees it also makes the other trees disappear, because the soil sinks and becomes poorer."

"Oh," whispered Camille... "Is it because there are no trees in the desert that the desert is a desert?"

Mom smiled,

"It's not so wrong what you say. It depends on the deserts actually. We do not know exactly why there are no trees in the Sahara ... Maybe there were before, maybe it was very hot and very dry, so the trees lacked water, or they died from an illness, who knows? ... But it's true that once there are not enough trees somewhere, less and less trees survive. And as long as there are no trees in an area, the trees will not come back, even if it rains and is not too hot. Trees are needed to maintain the soil and make it fertile and to regulate the temperature and to maintain the humidity of the air. It is only under the right conditions that a forest can spread."

"Is that why it's very humid in the Costa Rican forest?" I asked. "Is it because of the trees?"

"Partly yes. But it is also because it is in a humid region of the earth that there are precisely certain trees ... These tropical forests of humid and warm regions are very important for the whole balance of the earth. They constantly purify the air. Trees are the great protectors of the earth. So, you could almost say that it is

true what you said Camille. It is not because it is a desert that there are no trees, it is because when there are no trees it becomes a desert. But the opposite is also true. There are places where humans have replanted trees and taken good care of them, because young trees are fragile when they are the first in an area. And by doing this with persistence for decades, finally a new forest was able to spread. Tremendous! But it's a lot of work."

"Maybe, but it's great work!" I said. "That is what I want to do later when I grow up!"

"Me too," said Solange.

She always wants to do the same things as me, because she's my little sister.

Lucien said, "In fact, the earth breathes and moves, but the trees hold it firmly so that it does not move too much!"

We laughed, and I tapped him gently on the shoulder with my fist, because I love him, he's my little brother.

"So, trees are alive!" shouted Simon, who was listening to us from afar playing with his dollhouse.

He approached and asked, "But who makes the trees grow?"

"It's the fairies and the gnomes, of course!" said Manolito who was in his mom's arms.

So, I took Simon on my lap and told them,

"My favorite game when I was little, was to build houses for fairies and gnomes between the roots of trees. I told myself that this way I helped them to do a good job with the trees."

So, they all wanted to make one too, and I gave them ideas.

Lucia became sullen by saying that it was going to be a long time before she could have fun near a tree root, so I said to her,

"There are also gnomes in your apartment, for sure, otherwise your plants would have been dead long ago. Why don't you make them a house in a green plant?"

She looked at me with adoration and I smiled at her.

Then we started to do our exercises.

LESSON 1ST AND 2ND GRADE

Please see the document "Academic Exercises".

LESSON 3RD - 7TH GRADE

(around 60 minutes)

Each day I will propose a text for children from 3rd grade and up.

It should be copied into their beautiful notebooks and if possible illustrated.

Afterwards you can do different exercises based on the text and depending on what you want your child to work on.

Please see the document “Academic exercises” to choose the exercises you want to do.

To be copied in the beautiful notebooks

Landscape Protectors

Trees are the great protectors of the landscape.

With their roots, they absorb and purify water and they maintain the soil, protecting it from erosion.

Through their foliage, they produce oxygen that allows animals and humans to live and they regulate the temperature of their environment by releasing water vapor.

When their foliage falls and decomposes, it produces fertile soil that covers and restores the ground.

They also slow the wind and catch some of the rain and snow, protecting the ground and living beings.

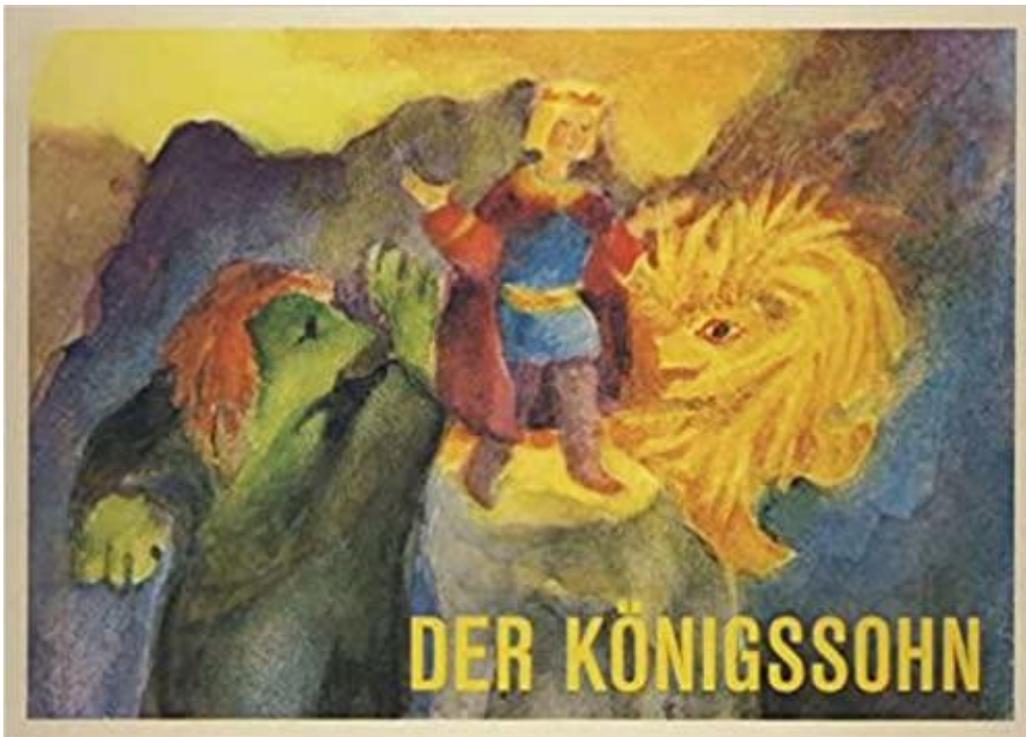
Without them, the landscape would be very different!

ARTISTIC LESSON

DRAWING WITH COLORED PENCILS OR OIL PASTELS

The ideal is that you make a drawing yourself. (With the help of the model, but without showing the original to the children). In this way, your child will imitate you while watching you draw. He will see the gesture and the effort that the adult makes. (And there is no need for you to achieve perfection. On the contrary, to see the effort and progressive improvement, this is what encourages the child). It is better for the child to copy from you than from a book. It is much more lively and interesting. But of course, if you don't have the time or the opportunity to do this, you can show him the original which he can try to reproduce.

Drawing for Grades 1 - 2



Drawing for Grades 3 - 7 : Turner



END OF MORNING STORY

In order to introduced all the different characters, today's part of the story for the beginning of the morning was again long, therefore, there will be no story for the end of the morning.

NATURE ACTIVITY

IF WALKING OUTDOORS IS POSSIBLE

Before going outside, set up a little nature corner somewhere in your house. Then during your walks, you can collect things to add to it.

You could also take a small piece of pine bark for example and decorate it and turn it into a small door for a gnome house. Then during your walk, you might find a beautiful spot, between the roots of a tree for example, where you can place your pretty door ...





During your walk, look at the trees, their beautiful shapes, the gesture of the branches, the roots. Where could you build a fairy house?

If you are lucky enough to be able to walk in the forest or if you have a garden, take your time to collect twigs, leaves, stones, etc to make a nice



miniature house or fairy home. Then you could take a photo of it to send to the grandparents.

If you can only walk in town, bring your little gnome door with you and maybe other things (a pretty stone for example). Look at the trees and if you can, find a place for your treasures, on a branch or between some roots. And if you want, you could take a photo to send to the

grandparents.

If it is not possible to stop to put down your treasures, don't worry, you'll do it another time. Just look at the beautiful shapes of the trees, the branches, the blossoms, the leaves and rejoice at the presence of the trees in your city.

IF WALKING OUTDOORS IS NOT POSSIBLE

Experience taking care of a plant in your home. You can dust off each of its leaves with a small wet cloth. It is important for indoor plants to be dusted regularly so that they can breathe better.

You can also find some treasures in your house to make a gnome house at the base of or in the stems of your plant.

Or you can make a nature corner somewhere in your house.

