

LOVE OF FELLOW LIVING BEINGS IN THE STORY OF LUNA RED SEEDS BY AMMY KUDO AND MEL DARMAWAN

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Abstract. Biji Merah Luna (Luna's Red Seed) by Ammy Kudo and Mel Darmawan illustrates the values of compassion and care among living beings. The story teaches the importance of love in maintaining harmony within the environment. This study aims to reveal the meaning of compassion among living creatures as reflected through the characters and plot. The research uses a descriptive qualitative method with a content analysis approach. Data were collected from the Biji Merah Luna text and analyzed based on themes, character behavior, and moral messages. Techniques included close reading and noting relevant textual evidence. The results show that Luna displays empathy toward the small beings around her, including the red seed that grows into a tree. Her interactions reflect mutual care, protection, and appreciation for life. The story emphasizes that love is essential in building a harmonious relationship between humans and nature. Its moral values invite readers to act with kindness and compassion toward all living beings.

Keywords: compassion, humanity, children's story, red seed, empathy.

INTRODUCTION

The main components of character education are compassion and empathy. Kohlberg's theory of moral development states that when individuals understand social values and are concerned about the well-being of others, empathy becomes part of the conventional stage in which the concept of justice is at the core of the process of moral development, which occurs throughout a person's life (Hanafiah, 2024). In addition, Daniel Goleman's theory of emotional intelligence explains that early childhood ability to operationalize their intelligence and emotional abilities is essential for their growth and development. As a result, they will become friendlier people and tend to make friends and become friends with others more easily (Chintya & Sit, 2024).

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Literature for children can serve as a useful tool for instilling principles of compassion, empathy, and appreciation for the lives of other creatures through their narratives and characters. Children are formed in character through three educational circles: family, school, and community. A good parenting pattern not only helps the child's development normally, but also helps the child develop a healthy child. It also shows that the formation of empathic character and concern for others, including living beings other than humans, is directly influenced by gentle and loving upbringing (Anshor & Gholib, 2010)

Sensitivity is associated with sensitivity, which means sensory sensitivity to things that are emotionally related. Sensitivity helps a person recognize and understand the feelings of others. In daily life, sensitivity helps a person become more sensitive and caring for others, one of which is plants (Octavians, 2018)

Luna Red Seeds by Ammy Kudo and Mel Darmawan is one of the relevant children's books to instill the value of love for living beings. This book was officially published in 2022 by the Center for Books and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia. The first book of the non-textbook category of learning for early childhood (early readers) has 22 pages and measures 21 × 29.7 cm. The book's ISBN is 978-602-244-926-3

The main character of this book, Luna, plants and cares for the red seeds that her grandmother gave her. During this process, Luna learns that some seeds will not grow due to rot or dryness, but she remains patient and continues to take care of them. Through these stories, children are educated about the importance of patience, empathy, and compassion by doing real things, such as taking care of plants

In addition, this book is not only for reading but also intended to encourage children to do certain things, such as planting and caring for plants. In addition, the interesting illustrations from this book are essential to help children understand the story. The book aims to help children learn and teach character such as patience, responsibility to keep something alive, and an attitude of accepting failure.

Barojah conducted a research entitled "The Value of Patience in the Storybook "Red Moon Seeds" by Ammy Kudo" which focused on analyzing the content of the book Red Moon Seeds. The study found that the book contains a significant value of patience, as shown by the way Luna's character plants seeds, takes care of them even though some don't succeed, until finally there are successful seeds. In addition, this study shows that the moral message of the book contains the value of environmental care, because Luna plants and care for plants as living beings that need attention.(Barojah, 2024.)

Salsabila, Astuti, et al. also conducted additional research called "The Influence of Storytelling in Improving Early Childhood Empathy Skills", which found that regular storytelling improves early childhood empathy skills. The study looked at articles from 2010–2020 that discussed stories and empathy and found that almost all articles showed that empathy increased after children experienced storytelling.(Salsabila et al., 2021)

This research examines the representation of the value of affection for fellow living beings in the story of Luna Red Seeds. This research is important because it can contribute to the development of children's affective, moral, and cognitive literacy. This study is also expected to be a reference for the use of children's literature as a tool for character learning in families and educational institutions. In addition, it also includes the ability to listen well by giving a sense of empathy for living beings and encouraging individuals to do self-reflection to increase self-awareness.(Faris Jihadi Hanifa & Davina Nur Hidayah, 2025)

RESEARCH METHOD

The type of research used is qualitative research with a focus on document research. According to Lexy J. Moleong in the book *Qualitative Research Methodology*, documents are an important source of data in qualitative research, especially in cases where researchers want to understand phenomena thoroughly without conducting direct observations or interviews. This document can be written text (report, article, archive), images, photos, audio recordings, or videos(Moleong, 2017). The data collection techniques used in this study are reading and recording techniques. In *Qualitative Research Methodology*, Djam'an Satori and Aan Komariah stated that systematically recording the results of readings is done to make organization, analysis, and interpretation of data easier (Satori & Komariah, 2017). The first step is to read the book in its entirety to understand the message and its context. In this book, Luna plants the red seeds given to her grandmother and takes great care of them until they grow into a large tree. In this process, the values of patience, care, and compassion are shown.

The data analysis technique used is a thematic analysis technique. According to Braun and Clarke in their book *Thematic Analysis: A Practical Guide*, thematic analysis is one of the methods of qualitative data analysis used to identify, analyze, and interpret patterns or themes that emerge from

research data. This method uses the process of grouping information into interrelated themes to find the deep meaning of qualitative data (Braun & Clarke, 2021). In addition, Braun and Clarke emphasize that thematic analysis is not purely mechanical. Researchers must understand the social and cultural context of the analyzed data in order for their interpretation to be conceptually and descriptively meaningful. As a result, in the study "Compassion of Fellow Living Beings in the Story of the Red Seed of Luna", thematic analysis allowed researchers to systematically interpret the moral messages contained in the text. To explain the human values that the author wants to convey, themes such as "compassion for living beings", "responsibility for the environment", and "human relationship with nature" can be used as a basis

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

The results of the thematic analysis carried out on the story of Biji Merah Luna by Ammy Kudo and Mel Darmawan show several main themes that emphasize the value of love for fellow living beings. To make it easier to understand, the findings of the analysis are presented in the following table

No.	Theme	Incidents in Stories
1.	Compassion for Animals and Nature	Luna takes care of birds that fall from her nest and feeds hungry animals.
2.	Concern for the Environment	Luna plants trees in her yard to keep the environment green and comfortable for living beings.
3.	Responsibility to Living Beings	Luna realizes that any action, such as littering, can harm animals and plants
4.	Empathy and Cooperation	Luna teams up with her friends to rescue animals trapped in the river.
5.	Moral Message and Character Education	The story teaches the reader, especially children, about the importance of respecting all living things and caring for the environment.

Table 1.

From the table above, it can be concluded that the story of the Red Seed of Luna contains four to five main themes that emphasize the values of compassion, empathy, responsibility, and care for fellow living beings. These themes also show the way the main character, Luna, cares for and protects living beings, and also conveys moral messages that can be used by readers, especially children.

Children's books are one of the important mediums to build character from childhood. Books can instill social, emotional, and natural values in children through stories and illustrations. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia published the book "Biji Merah Luna" (2022) by Ammy Kudo and Mel Darmawan. In the short story, Luna is a child who takes care of her grandmother's "red seeds"; He planted them and waited for them to grow, learning patience and taking care of the plants and living things around him.

The aim of this study is to see how the work internalizes four main values: compassion for nature or animals, responsibility for living beings, empathy and cooperation, and moral messages or character education. Therefore, it is hoped that this research will contribute to the use of children's literacy in character and environmental education.

1.1 Compassion for Animals and Nature

Studies of environmental education show that children's emotional connection to nature ("connection with nature" or "empathy with nature") increases their pro-environmental attitudes. A correlational and interventional study of preschool-aged children found that, despite controlling for "empathy with humans", "empathy with nature" increased pro-environmental attitudes.

In addition, the book "Caring for Nature and the Environment with Early Childhood" shows worldwide practices of how children are educated to care for nature, flora, and other living communities. Therefore, instilling compassion for living beings, including animals and plants, is the conceptual basis for environmental and character education.

Although the book does not feature pets explicitly, the theme of caring for seeds, which eventually become plants, serves as a powerful metaphor for affection for other living beings. In addition to planting, Luna also cares, waits, and interacts directly with nature. The concept known as "empathy with nature" has been shown to encourage pro-environmental attitudes.

According to Luna's perspective, the affection of the situation can be manifested through tangible actions towards living beings, such as watering, waiting, and patience. In the literature, this is often associated with responsibility and concern for the environment.

1.2 Responsibility to Living Beings

One of the important elements in character literacy and environmental education is responsibility. For example, the article "Building Early Childhood Social Skills Through Learning Empathy Cooperation and Responsibility" states that fostering empathy, cooperation, and responsibility is essential for early childhood social skills development.(Khatijah et al., 2025).

In the same way, the study "Building learning environments for sustainable growth: a collaborative approach" found that responsibility was one of the main categories that emerged from environmental learning workshops.

The focus of the story is the process: Luna's grandmother gave her red seeds, and then she was the one who planted, cared for, and waited for her growth. According to research on responsibility and cooperation, children should be given the opportunity to take care of something in order for them to internalize responsibility. In this book, the "seed" entity is described as a creature in need of attention, teaching the reader that every living thing, whether plant or animal, needs care.

1.3 Empathy and Cooperation

In environmental and character education, empathy is not only for fellow humans, but also for natural and non-human beings. According to the article "Empathy and Imagination in Education for Sustainability", children and teachers can gain an "otherness" perspective, which opens the door to human-nature relationships.(Jensen, n.d.).

In addition, the article "Human Education as a Method of Character Development for Children in Schools" shows that educational programs that instill empathy for animals are a component of children's character development.(Psychology Study Program, Faculty of Social Studies and Culture, Gajayana University & Juliadilla, 2017). When children learn together, work together to protect the environment or living things, and understand that acting together can have a positive impact, cooperation becomes important.

When Luna understands that the seed doesn't grow immediately and "takes time", empathy emerges in the book. Children learn to understand other creatures and patiently wait. The grandmother-Luna relationship also shows the transfer of values and cooperation between generations.

According to the literature, the growth of children's empathy for nature and other creatures results in the collaboration of families, teachers, and children. Children can participate in activities that require cooperation, such as planting seeds with friends or family or caring for pets, which increases the value of cooperation.

1.4 Moral Message and Character Education

Character education through children's literacy has been talked about a lot. The book "The Caring Child: Raising Empathetic and Emotionally Intelligent Children" offers a positive research-based approach to fostering a child's emotional intelligence and empathy.

It is essential to educate character and the environment to turn negative emotions (such as apathy) into positive emotions (such as care and responsibility). According to a study called "Education for Environmental and Emotional Sustainability," emotionally responsive pedagogy is essential to facilitate future responsibility and orientation.

Therefore, books for children that instill principles such as compassion, responsibility, empathy, and cooperation can really help in the education of the environment and character.

The book generates moral messages such as patience ("Luna must be patient"), responsibility ("caring for seeds until they grow"), care for small living beings, and an awareness that small actions, such as planting seeds, can have a big impact. Emotional processing, a sense of responsibility, and empathy are necessary for effective character education, according to research.

This book provides a literacy framework that supports character education in elementary schools or kindergartens. For illustration, teachers could ask questions such as "What is Luna doing?", "How do seeds feel?", and "What will I do for the living things around me?"

The book "Bunny Red Moon" is a simple story but contains important values to teach children's characters. These values include compassion for the outdoors and nature, responsibility for living beings, empathy and cooperation, and moral messages for character development. The results of the literature review support these values: empathy with nature encourages pro-environmental attitudes, responsibility and cooperation are important at an early age, and emotionally responsive pedagogy can change children's attitudes and actions towards the environment.

This book is suitable for use in early childhood and elementary school learning as a material for discussions and activities to care for plants and animals. It can also be used as a medium to integrate material across subjects (language, environment, and character). For further research, an empirical study can be conducted on how this book impacts children's attitudes and behaviors towards real living things around them, both animals and plants.

CONCLUSION

The story of Luna Red Seeds, written by Ammy Kudo and Mel Darmawan, teaches human and environmental values through the character of Luna who carefully takes care of red seeds. From an early age, Luna's perspective reflects a sense of empathy and responsibility towards nature, which is the basis of her character's education. According to Khatijah in the Journal of Basic Education of the Archipelago, learning empathy, cooperation, and responsibility are very important to shape children's social character. Li's findings in the PsyCh Journal also suggest that empathy for nature can foster pro-environmental behavior in children. In addition, this book conveys moral messages such as compassion, patience, responsibility, and concern for others. This moral message is relevant to modern character education. This supports Dunlop & Rushton's theory of sustainability that continuing education must instill emotional responsibility for the environment. Therefore, Luna Red Seeds can be used as an effective tool to teach children about character and environmental literacy. This will teach them to be people who care, care for, and love nature and life around them.

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