

THE MECHANISM OF FOSTERING HIGH EMPATHY FROM THE BOOK CELENGAN RURU

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Abstract. Empathy or care is a character that should grow in every self, because it is very important. However, it is unfortunate that in an era of sophistication, the character seems to be slowly fading. How do you keep this positive character in each person? What can be done so that this positive character can be embedded from childhood to the end of life? The story "Piggy Bank Ruru" by Supriyatin published digitally by the Language Development and Bookkeeping Agency, Ministry of Education and Culture, East Jakarta, 2019 illustrates the importance of empathy in friendship relationships. It is told how we should have the ability to empathize and even be willing to sacrifice valuable things for the benefit of others. The background of the problems faced in daily life, the lack of empathy in society, makes this story relevant and important to study. This article will discuss more about how empathy can be applied in life.

Keywords: Empathy, Friendship, Kindness

INTRODUCTION

In our daily routines, as individuals living in society, of course, we really need each other's presence. We are required to support each other and not be selfish. One way to interact socially well is to show empathy for others. What makes this empathy so important? Empathy is considered crucial because it is the ability to understand and feel the emotions of others, by means of learning and the application of good and effective habits. This aims for children to understand religious values and knowledge about the surrounding environment. Thus, a child's positive character can be formed. (Kumari et al., 2023) .

Empathy is an attempt to understand and feel the feelings of others. It is important to instill empathy in children from an early age, as this contributes to their moral development and encourages good social behaviors, such as helping, sharing, and caring for others. The ability to understand the thoughts and emotions of others has a great influence on their social interactions. When a person can feel what others feel and think, social relationships can be more harmonious, as they create understanding and trust between them. For children, empathy is very helpful in establishing better relationships with peers. Teaching empathy to children from an early age is essential, as this can affect moral development and encourage them to act wisely, such as helping, sharing, and showing concern for others. Empathy allows individuals to feel the emotions of others and provide supportive reactions . (Qondias et al., 2024) Empathy provides the ability for individuals to be more sensitive to the emotions and needs of others. By recognizing the point of view as well as the condition of others, one can respond more appropriately and provide support, which contributes to the formation of a more transparent and sincere communication atmosphere (Nasution & Aqilla, 2025) . The ability to understand the thoughts and feelings of others has a great influence on their social relationships. When one can recognize the thoughts and emotions of others, social interaction becomes better, as this creates a sense of mutual understanding and trust between them. For children, empathy has a crucial role in strengthening bonds with friends their age. Children who are able to feel the feelings of others will be more likely to show attention, be more willing to provide help, and be easier to collaborate. Building empathy is a good trait that needs to be taught from an early age. The results of empathetic character formation will obviously not be immediately apparent, but it will take time and an ongoing process. In order to develop an empathetic character, this must be activated from a young age. Empathy is crucial to teach children, as this attitude can be a means for them to interact with others, socialize with friends, and become capital when they enter society in the future. By building empathy in children, we can protect them from feelings of envy, hatred, and hostility

toward others, so that they can grow into loving, wise, and friendless individuals. In addition, empathy can encourage children's social and emotional development to be better and more valuable. Inviting children to show empathy is also crucial in strengthening moral values. (Ulfah, 2019).

In our daily activities, we often face situations that require empathy and are accompanied by sacrifice. If empathy is defined as the ability to feel and understand the feelings of others, then sacrifice is the next step by giving something meaningful for the sake of others. This character is very important in building good and harmonious relationships with others. Empathy plays a vital role in building good social relationships, while a lack of empathy in daily interactions can be a barrier to cooperation.

RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this article is literature research, which is an approach that collects data by understanding and analyzing various theories relevant to this study. This data collection is done by looking for references and developing arguments from various sources, such as books, journals, and previous studies. The sources obtained from these references are analyzed in depth and critically to strengthen the propositions and ideas presented (Adlini et al., 2022) .

RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

In the story book piggy bank Ruru karya, which was published digitally by the Language Development and Bookkeeping Agency, Ministry of Education and Culture, East Jakarta, (2019) describes the story of Ruru and Piko, two friends who have a good friendship. When Piko has an accident and has to rest at home, Ruru immediately thinks of a way to help her friend. He decided to break his piggy bank and buy honey for Piko, even though Ruru's initial intention was to buy clothes. Ruru prefers the proceeds of his piggy bank to help his friend. This is the application of the correct and appropriate attitude. Piko was of course very happy with Ruru's gift and thanked her for her kindness. When Ruru's mother offered to buy new clothes with her piggy bank, Ruru chose not to buy new clothes and changed to help her friend. Ruru's mother was very proud of Ruru's decision and praised her kindness. Ruru's mother even offered to buy new clothes for Ruru from her mother's money. This was done as an appreciation for Ruru's excellent attitude and actions as a form of empathy. (Supriyatin, 2019)

The story of Ruru and Piko teaches us about the importance of empathy and sacrifice in friendships. Ruru points out that by understanding other people's feelings and sacrificing something valuable, it can make others happy and build more harmonious relationships. This story shows that caring and kindness can bring happiness to oneself and others. In addition, the book Piggy Bank Ruru conveys the message that good friendship must be based on an attitude of mutual care and attention.

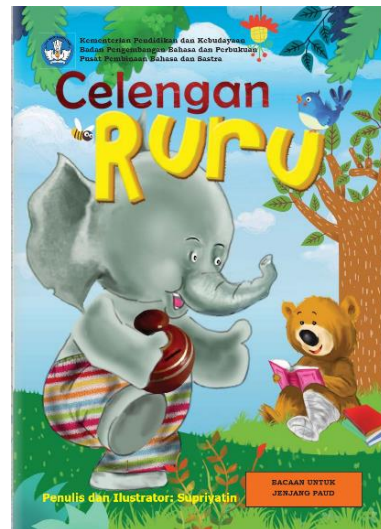


Figure 1. Cover of the Story of Rumble



Figure 2. Pages in the book Piggy Bank Ruru

The Importance of Developing Empathy

Developing an empathetic attitude at an early age is very important, because it will have a very meaningful impact in the future. According to Anik Lestari, early childhood is a group of people aged 0-6 years, where early childhood is a group of children who are in a unique process of growth and development, in the sense of having a special growth and development pattern according to the level of growth and development. This distinctive and specific growth pattern refers to the understanding that at this age a child experiences a phase of rapid growth and development, characterized by a readiness to receive the various stimuli given, either directly or indirectly. Given the importance of an empathetic attitude, it takes the active involvement of those around them, such as parents and teachers, to develop them. One way that can be done is by reading stories.

CONCLUSION

An attitude of empathy followed by tangible action through the provision of help or support develops in the individual when faced with unpleasant situations experienced by others, especially young children, is vital. Individuals who apply the character of empathy and are willing to sacrifice their own to help others feel the benefits not only in the recipient of help, but more significantly the orah who carries out the act of empathy. The good impact of this step is also experienced by those in need. In addition, both those who show empathy and those who receive will feel the positive effects of this empathy trait, which also has a good impact on all who see it. These positive actions and attitudes are the motivation to continue to do good for the benefit of others. Therefore, efforts to develop an empathetic attitude should be done and managed properly so that this trait continues to grow in a person from childhood to adulthood. In general, the way to cultivate an attitude or empathetic character in young children can be done through storytelling activities using books that contain important moral messages and need to be instilled from an early age. One method to build character or empathy in young children is to read stories from the book Piggy Bank Ruru. Reading buru stories of the action of presenting events directly through the medium of pictures is very memorable and memorable for early children.

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