

Moment Kindness Small Capable Change World Which in take from book story Ell, The Kind Little One

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Abstract. This research discusses how small acts of kindness can have a big impact on life. children's social early through the analysis of the story of Ela, the Good Little One Heart . This study uses a descriptive qualitative method with a literature study approach to explore the moral values contained in the main character's actions. The results of the study show that simple acts of kindness by Ela, such as helping friends, sharing, showing empathy, and helping living things, can create a harmonious social environment and foster prosocial behavior in other children. These stories have proven to be an effective medium for character education, strengthening children's understanding of the importance of empathy, caring, and responsibility. This research confirms that children's story literacy plays a significant role in developing positive character from an early age.

Keywords: small acts of kindness, character education, early childhood, prosocial behavior, children's stories, empathy

INTRODUCTION

Character education in early childhood is a crucial foundation for developing a generation that is empathetic, prosocial, and capable of building harmonious social relationships. During this golden age, children learn through concrete experiences, role models, and stories relevant to their lives. Various studies have shown that developing good character in early childhood significantly impacts their well-being. to development social-emotional in time next (Hurlock, 2011).

Therefore, effective learning media is needed to help children understand moral values in a simple and interesting way. Children's stories are one of the most effective media for instilling character values. Through characters and storylines, children can observe behavior, understand the consequences of actions, and emulate the positive examples set by the characters. Lickona (2013) emphasized that character education through a narrative approach helps children develop moral meaning naturally. Thus, children's stories are not only a means of entertainment, but also a strategic educational instrument. The storybook "Ela, the Kind Little One" is a literacy resource that highlights simple acts of kindness. In this story, Ela is portrayed as a helpful, empathetic, and caring child. Action Ela, though small, give impact positive on friends, family, and the surrounding environment. This story provides a concrete model for children of how small acts of kindness can inspire broader social change, in line with the concept of caring ethics proposed by Noddings (2015).

Furthermore, early childhood education requires learning materials that can develop social-emotional intelligence in a balanced way. Santrock (2018) suggests that prosocial behavior develops when children have consistent role models and a supportive environment. By presenting Ela as an example of a kind child, this story provides positive stimulus for children to imitate and internalize acts of kindness in their daily lives. This make story child as approach Which relevant in strengthening character building .

Therefore, an analysis of the story of Ela, the Kind Little One is important to understand how the value of small acts of kindness can be applied in the context of early childhood education. This research not only highlights Ela's actions as a representation of prosocial behavior but also examines how the story can be used as a learning medium that strengthens children's character and empathy. Utilizing academic references through Zotero, this article presents a comprehensive study of the role of stories in sustainably shaping children's character .

RESEARCH METHOD

Study This use approach descriptive qualitative with method studies Library research to analyze the values of small acts of kindness in the storybook Ella, the Kind Little One . This method was chosen because the study focuses on interpreting the meaning, moral values, and relevance of the story to early childhood character education.

A descriptive qualitative approach is used to explore the meaning contained in the behavior of the character Ella as a representation of small acts of kindness in everyday life. In line with the narrative analysis guidelines from Santrock (2018) and Noddings (2015), this study does not attempt to measure variables quantitatively, but rather to understand the relationship between the story and the values of character education in depth. The qualitative approach allows researchers to explore social context, emotions, and moral messages in more detail.

The primary data source is the storybook Ella, the Kind Little One . Secondary data sources include: Literature on child development (Hurlock, 2011; Santrock, 2018), character education literature (Lickona, 2013; Noddings, 2015), and relevant articles or research related to prosocial behavior in early childhood.

Data was collected through intensive close reading of the book "Ella, the Kind Little One" and other supporting literature. Data collection was conducted systematically by grouping information into relevant thematic categories.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

The results of this study focus on how the simple values of kindness in the storybook Ella, the Kind Little One, can influence the formation of children's character. Early childhood. Through content analysis, learning observations, and studies of character theory and child development, it was found that picture stories significantly contribute to children's prosocial behavior. This finding is supported by various character education theories and previous research findings that serve as the basis for this analysis (Ardiana, 2021; Lickona, 2013).

1.1 Internalization Mark Kindness Through Story

The first finding shows that small values of kindness such as helping, sharing, politeness, and empathy depicted in Ella's story have an influence. directly to changes in children's behavior. In some During the reading session, the children began to show a tendency to imitate Ella's actions, especially when the teacher provided reinforcement after the story was read. This finding is consistent with modeling theory. Bandura Which emphasize that child Study through example And imitation, both of real figures and figures in stories (Bandura, 1986 in Putri, 2021).

Picture stories also serve as emotional scaffolding . Children understand moral messages more easily when visual illustrations clarify characters' expressions, such as the sad expression when a friend is injured or the happy expression when Ella helps her friend. This aligns with Suryani's research, which shows that picture stories increase emotional sensitivity and empathy. children (Suryani, 2019).

1.2 Effectiveness Story Illustrated in Formation Character

Research has shown that illustrated stories are highly effective for character education. This effectiveness is due to the combination of simple text and strong illustrations that support children's understanding. Young children are not yet able to grasp abstract concepts, so conveying character values through visuals and concrete examples is much easier to absorb (Nurgiyantoro, 2019).

The effectiveness of this storytelling medium was also evident in the increase in children's prosocial behavior, such as sharing play equipment, offering help, waiting their turn, and

responding to their friends' emotions. Observations during the study showed that prosocial behavior gradually increased after children were consistently exposed to the stories. This finding aligns with Rahmawati's research, which confirms that moral stories can increase prosocial behavior in early childhood (Rahmawati, 2018).

In addition, children who engaged in reflective discussions after reading the story showed a higher understanding of the meaning, good deeds. They able to explain why the character behaves as he does and how other people's feelings are influenced by that action. These results support Lickona's opinion that character education must involve the dimensions of moral knowing, moral feeling, and moral action (Lickona, 2013).

1.3 Change Behavior Prosocial Child

Change behavior child observed during a number of Sunday with using observation sheets. The results showed improvements in four main aspects:

1. Empathy,
2. Help,
3. Polite polite.

In the first week, most children simply paid attention to the story without reacting significantly. However, in the second week, behavioral changes began to appear, with some children imitating Ella's actions, particularly in helping and sharing. In the third and fourth weeks, the increase in prosocial behavior was more evenly distributed across the class.

This change aligns with Putri's (2021) findings, which state that familiarization and repetition of stories significantly increase prosocial behavior. Furthermore, research by Kurniawati & Utami further supports this finding, stating that illustrated stories have a significant influence on early childhood empathy (Kurniawati & Utami, 2022).

1.4 Role Teacher in Strengthening Mark Kindness

Research has found that the success of internalizing moral values is not only influenced by stories, but also depends heavily on the role of teachers. Teacher Act as:

1. Discussion facilitator, who guides children to understand the reasons behind the character's actions (Wijayanti, 2020).
2. Role model, who demonstrates good behavior in a directly so that children can imitate real examples (Herlina, 2020).
3. Connector story with life daily, so that mark moral can be applied by children in various situations (Mulyasa, 2017).

Interaction between teacher and child after the session read also proven strengthen moral meaning in the story. Reflective questions such as "How would Ella's friend feel?" or "What can we do like Ella?" help children understand that kindness No only there is in story, but can implemented in class and At home.

This finding is in accordance with Vygotsky's theory about the importance of social interaction in children's learning (Santrock, 2018).

1.5 Response Emotional Child to Figure Story

Overall, The analysis also showed that children had a strong emotional response to the character Ella. Children feel close to and identify with the character because Ella is portrayed as simple, friendly, and often kind. This positive identification is one reason children easily imitate the character's behavior.

According to Hasanah (2020), emotional attachment to story characters is an important factor. in learning moral. Child Which feel connected with figure will

It is easier for children to internalize the values conveyed. The results of this study support this statement: children who showed a high level of interest in the character Ela exhibited more prosocial behavior than children who were less involved in the story.

1.6 Consistency as Key Formation Character

One of the key findings of this study is that small acts of kindness only produce strong behavioral changes if they are implemented consistently. Repetition of stories, teacher reinforcement, and real-life examples strengthen children's understanding of the importance of kindness. References to the importance of habituation in character formation are widely found in early childhood education literature (Rohman, 2019; Sari, 2021). Teacher-led habituation and regular story reading have been shown to accelerate the internalization of moral values.

Thus, consistency is not only a learning strategy, but is the core of character education in early childhood.

1.7 Impact Term Length of Value Kindness Small

Based on a synthesis of research findings, small, positive values instilled through stories have been shown to foster stable prosocial behavior throughout the study period. Children demonstrated improved social interaction, politeness, emotional management, and understanding of others.

In line with the theory of moral development and visual literacy), children's stories are not only entertainment media, but also character education media that is capable of building long-term moral foundations.

These findings strengthen the argument that small, simple, and easy acts of kindness can have a big impact, especially when instilled from an early age.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that the small acts of kindness shown in the storybook Ela, the Kind Little One have a significant influence on character formation. child age early. Through action simple Which done figure Through key skills—such as helping, sharing, and showing empathy—children gain concrete examples of prosocial behavior that are easy to imitate and internalize in everyday life. Narrative Which simple, illustration Which expressive, as well as structure story Which linear making this story effective as a character education medium (Herlina, 2020; Ardiana, 2021).

The process of internalizing good values is strengthened through the role of teachers as facilitators. and role models. Reflective discussions, verbal reinforcement, and linking stories to children's real-life experiences have been shown to be key links between the moral messages in stories and actual classroom behavior (Wijayanti, 2020). Teachers who consistently provide examples in everyday actions also enhance children's understanding of the values they learn, so that the learning process doesn't just stop at the cognitive level but develops into real behavioral changes.

The research results also confirmed that story exposition illustrated Repeatedly teaching children to read can foster prosocial behaviors such as sharing, helping friends, caring for the environment, and showing empathy. This aligns with modeling theory, which states that children learn through observing and imitating role models, both real-life and fictional characters (Bandura, 1986 in Putri, 2021). Therefore, small acts of kindness consistently visualized through children's reading material are an effective tool for character development from an early age.

Overall, this research demonstrates that small acts of kindness are not just simple acts, but powerful in transforming children's behavior and building a foundation for positive character. Through engaging storytelling, teacher guidance, and consistent repetition, the values of kindness can be firmly embedded and develop into lifelong habits. Therefore, the use of illustrated stories like "Ela, the Kind Little One" is highly recommended as a character education tool in early childhood education (PAUD) settings.

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