

Moraline

A whimsical illustration of a young girl with dark, wind-blown hair, wearing a red hoodie and blue jeans, standing on a grassy hill in a forest. She is looking up at a large brown hawk in flight. Several green leaves are floating in the air around her. In the foreground, a brown fox is sitting on the grass, looking towards the girl. The background features tall, thin trees and a soft, hazy light.

Student workbook

CINTIA ALFONSO FIOR



Rising Advocates is an advocacy and educational platform dedicated to increasing the peacebuilding, conflict analysis and resolution skills of our students through storytelling.

Rising Advocates strives to support families and educators in facilitating conversation about children's rights and environmental justice within a safe space. Our lessons focus on three core principles: love yourself, respect for others, and to care for the environment. Through this continual cycle of education and engagement, we hope that we can build and maintain meaningful relationships with communities.

Through our free educational resources, including course curriculums, activities, blogs, and monthly newsletters, we foster shared learning and reflection opportunities for families, educators, and community members.

Our engagement opportunities provide spaces where people can harness their collective power and act for change. Through this continued cycle of education and engagement, we plan to build and maintain meaningful relationships within communities.

Can Storytelling Contribute to Peace Education?

Critical peace education pedagogy requires the development of a kaleidoscopic lens capable of producing multi-focal points that collectively reveal the imagery of peace.

(Trifonas, 2013)

Moraline is a work of fiction, but it was inspired by a movement toward critical peace education, particularly for children in their formative years who have been historically marginalized within society. My goal is to use storytelling as an early intervention tool to facilitate conversations about racism and cultural diversity. Stories can show readers new perspectives and remind them that they aren't alone. Unfortunately, in most Western countries, social justice education is offered as a patchwork of courses and materials, rather than a cohesive curriculum intervention aimed at teaching conflict analysis and resolution skills to equip young people to deal with the complexities of society.

This novel emphasizes the importance of racial literacy for both students and teachers. About midway through the process of writing, I realized that I was writing a book not only about children's rights but also about how children's rights intersect with environmental justice. Conflict offers an opportunity for positive change—a chance to develop visions of peace and solidarity among the world's

people, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, gender, or sociocultural background. Conflict gives us a chance to make these visions a reality. While not every background is represented in this book, I structured the characters to represent a wide variety of experiences so that readers can identify with the characters and reflect on diversity, the coexistence of difference, and our responsibility to the environment. Gould (2013) defined engaged thinking as "the ability to think with others without losing one's ability to think for oneself." This can only occur when moral values are instilled early in life. As adults, we bear a responsibility to equip children to understand their emotions and those of others from a young age, as well as how to understand and approach conflict. We need to reframe the narrative to offer future generations the possibility of peace as a new reality. This book serves as one tool for new generations to overcome conflict and violence. The ability to effect change and bring relief to a beleaguered planet is a learned skill rooted in respect and communication. The fate of the future is in the hands of children.

Author Biography

Cintia Alfonso Fior is an educator and clinical psychologist, with a specialty in research on peace education. Her writing focuses on helping young readers develop peacebuilding skills, with the aim of developing conversations about conflict analysis, resolution and advocacy.

Cintia has a MA in Peace and Justice Studies from the Kroc Institute of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego and serves as the current chair of the American Family Therapy Academy's (AFTA) Family Policy and Human Rights committee.

Cintia was inspired to found Rising Advocates and begin writing her first novel *Moraline*, upon realizing the depth of injustices faced by. Her goal is to use storytelling as an early intervention tool, with the aim of facilitating conversations to further children's rights and environmental justice issues