

Junior Youth Empowerment Program

Learning How to Make a Difference in Communities



Development Learning Press

Introduction

The JYEP is a comprehensive educational program designed for junior youth aged 12 to 15.

The JYEP equips junior youth with a profound understanding of their own potential and empowers them to engage in acts of service to the community.



Rationale

Junior youth are in a period where many changes are occurring in their lives.

Junior youth are very susceptible to influences from the world around them: advertising, music, television, movies, other media, and peers.

They need to be helped to overcome the negative aspects of their environment.



Rationale

Junior youth like to belong to and work in peer groups without the fear of being ridiculed.

They are energetic and like to contribute to the common good.

They are inquisitive and have a thirst for knowledge.

They have potentialities and capacities which are often not recognized and developed.



Objectives

Three Objectives of the JYEP:

- 1. Enhance their power of expression*
- 2. Develop the ability to make positive decisions*
- 3. Engage in acts of service to the community*



1. Enhance the Power of Expression

The JYEP empowers junior youth by enabling them to positively express themselves with precision and clarity. The JYEP improves the junior youths' abilities in the following areas:

- *Literacy and vocabulary*
- *Reading and writing*
- *Comprehension*
- *Ability to give presentations*
- *Artistic expression*
- *Critical thinking*



2. Capability to Make Positive Decisions

The JYEP empowers junior youth by giving them the analytical tools to understand the implications for choices that confront them everyday, and it enables them to express positive choices through speech and action:

- *Complex situations are analyzed in the texts*
- *Method of action-reflection is used*



3. Enhance their Capacities for Service

The JYEP empowers junior youth to actively participate in the transformation of their neighborhood and community.

The JYEP utilizes service to enable these young people to realize their capacities to the fullest and use them for the benefit of themselves and others.



Examples of Acts of Service



Beautifying the Neighborhood

Examples of Acts of Service



*Teaching children virtues
through songs, stories, and
games*



Examples of Acts of Service



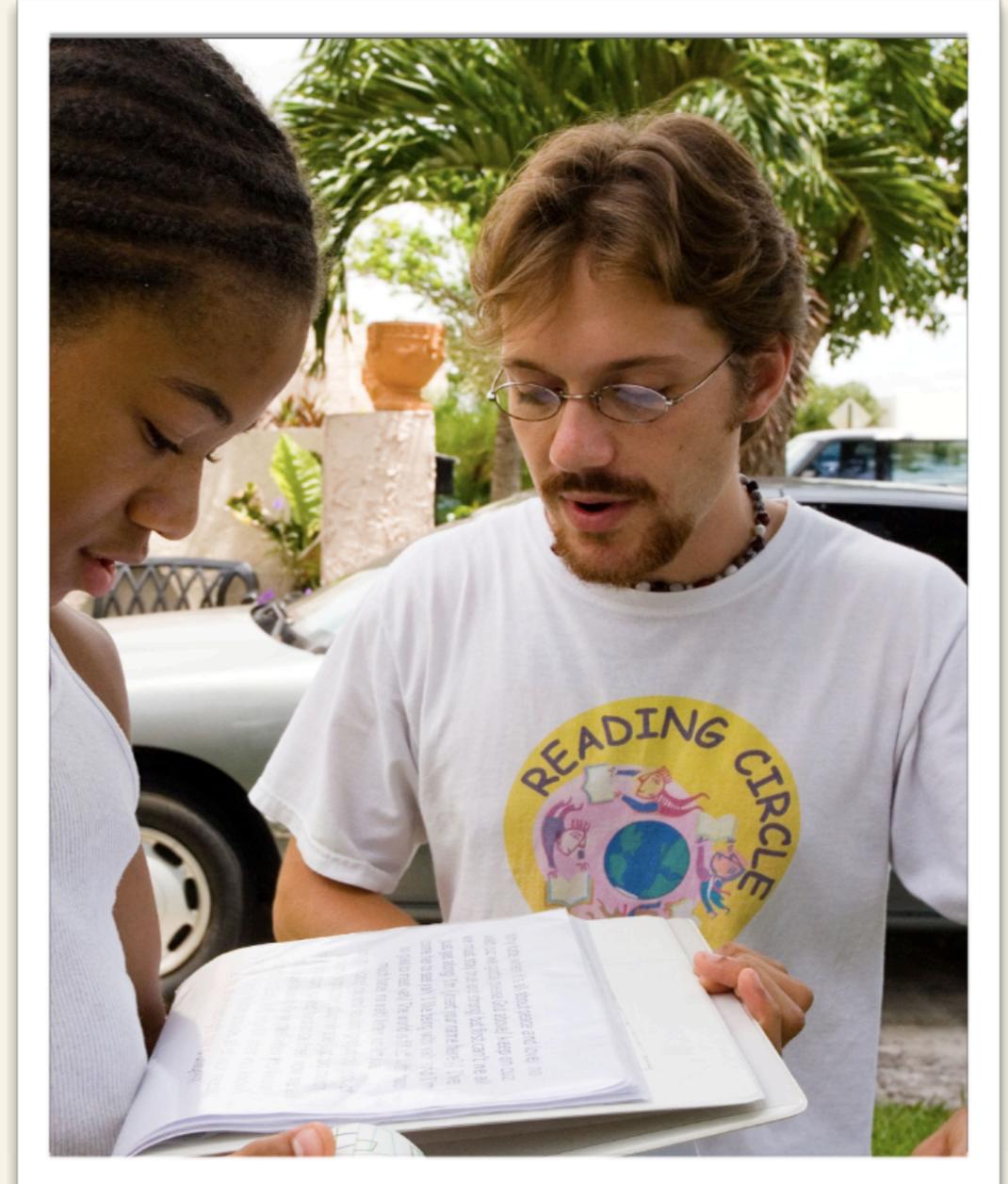
Serving the elderly



Community performances

The Role of Animators:

- *creates an environment where the junior youth can express questions and doubts, and investigate things.*
- *is a co-learner, sharing his experiences and knowledge in an unassuming way.*
- *creates an atmosphere of friends who learn, serve, and have fun together.*
- *Animators undergo formal training, work in pairs, and receive safety checks.*



Material

Five books are currently in use for study by the junior youth groups:

- *Breezes of Confirmation and Glimmerings of Hope for 12 year olds*
- *Walking the Straight Path and Learning About Excellence for 13 year olds*
- *Drawing on the Power of the Word for 14 year olds.*



Material

The content of the material is simple yet profound.

Far from preaching to junior youth on how they should be, these books help them discover moral and spiritual realities for themselves, assisted by animators.



LESSON 3

Kibomi hides in the tree until dark. When he thinks it is safe, he climbs down slowly, silently, like a cat, and stands behind some tall grass. Suddenly he hears a branch crack and feels a hand on his shoulder. He quickly grabs the hand and uses all his strength to pull the person to the ground.

"Kibomi, it's me!" says a voice that he knows. Kibomi looks down and sees his friend Chongwe staring up at him.

"Chongwe, you scared me! I thought you were a soldier!" whispers Kibomi.

Chongwe whispers back, "Kibomi, the Kungu have killed everyone they could find in the village. We must run!"

"I saw them kill my parents!" Kibomi says, holding back his tears.

"Everyone has been killed, and all the houses have been burned down. We must go now, while it is dark and they cannot see us," responds Chongwe.

But where should they go? Kibomi thinks of his sister Amina. She lives with their uncle in a town where she attends school. Is she safe, or has she, too, been killed? "I must go to my uncle's

The two friends shake hands and start walking. A feeling of loneliness takes over Kibomi. He looks up at the night sky and thinks about his parents. He will never see them again. "Why are people so full of hate?" he wonders. He remembers how his father used to talk about the problems in the world. He used to say, "Kibomi, you are young and you are good. You should not lose hope because of the terrible things you see people doing. Work to build a better world. One day you can make a difference."

"Yes, Father," he whispers to himself, "I must try!"

Questions

- Where does Kibomi hide until dark?
- Who puts a hand on Kibomi's shoulder?
- What does Chongwe tell Kibomi?
- Where will Kibomi go?
- What did Kibomi's father use to tell him?

times, we should not choose dark paths, but should look for the light that restores hope. Read

2. In the following situations, decide which actions will bring despair and which will restore hope:

- a. You do poorly in one of the subjects in an exam.
- | | Hope | Despair |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| You give up studying and spend most of your time playing. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| You tell yourself that you are stupid. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| You ask another student to help you. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| You are patient with yourself and try harder to understand the subject. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| You blame your teacher for not helping you more. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

You are patient with yourself and try harder to understand the subject.

You blame your teacher for not helping you more.

b. You feel lonely and it seems that you do not have any friends.

	Hope	Despair
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You keep to yourself and feel sad most of the time.

You spend less time thinking about yourself and care more for others.

You think about the faults of others all the time.

You look for the good in other people.

You take the first step to speak and be friendly to others.

c. You see jealousy and fighting among some of your relatives.

	Hope	Despair
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You, too, feel jealous and fight with them.

You try to be more generous to them.

You pray for the members of your family to become united.

You teach the children in your family about love and generosity.

You tell yourself there is nothing you can do to change your relatives.

Empowerment

Empowerment of junior youth results when:

They understand their own capacities to make a difference.

They have the qualities, attitudes, insights and knowledge to consistently make, and confidently express, positive decisions despite social pressures.



Conclusion

The program is effective when in place for three years, until the junior youth turn 15.

There is a critical window of opportunity between the ages of 12 and 15, before a person's concepts and attitudes crystallize.

Family support is essential to the success of the program. Animators welcome and encourage family participation.

