

Research Report on the Creation and Dissemination Effect of Illustrated Books of Revolutionary Spirit in South China from the Perspective of Aesthetic Education

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Abstract: Red picture books, which carry the revolutionary spirit of South China, play a crucial role in cultivating healthy aesthetic views and subtly passing on the red spirit among young children. However, these picture books currently face practical issues such as a small creative community and limited dissemination channels. In response to this, this project focuses on the revolutionary spirit of South China from an aesthetic education perspective. By visiting red bases in South China and interviewing veterans, it aims to distill elements for children's picture books and promote more creators to join through a red picture book collection competition. Additionally, by integrating picture book courses into kindergartens and communities, the project promotes and spreads the revolutionary spirit of South China, expands and extends aesthetic education functions, enhances children's appreciation of beauty, and fosters a sense of national identity.

1. Research Background

Picture books are a widely beloved form of artistic expression among children. Good picture books can immerse children in stories, spark their interest in learning, and thereby enhance their knowledge levels and overall abilities. President Xi Jinping emphasized: "Revolutionary tradition education should start from a young age, focusing not only on imparting knowledge but also on nurturing emotions, so that the red gene seeps into the blood and penetrates the heart." This study aims to integrate the red gene into our veins and invigorate the red spirit, using the revolutionary spirit culture of South China to create children's picture books, thus passing on the red gene through these books. By telling heroic deeds and struggles during the South China revolution through picture books, rich and vivid illustrations are combined with historical events to inspire children's national confidence and pride. At the same time, by reading these picture books, children can understand the storylines, gaining insights and subtly helping them establish correct values, positive

attitudes towards life, and moral principles.

1.1. The call of the times: Inherit the red revolutionary culture and explore a new path of South China picture books

President Xi Jinping pointed out: "For us Communists, the history of the Chinese revolution is the best source of nourishment." Promoting and publicizing red revolutionary culture has become a new challenge bestowed by the times. The revolutionary culture of South China emerged during the revolutionary war era, created by the Communist Party of China leading the people in the processes of revolution, construction, and reform. The revolutionary spirit and cultural connotations it embodies remain fresh over time, with broad social significance, making it an indispensable part of contemporary Chinese national culture. Therefore, our team responds to the call of the times, focusing on the revolutionary spirit of South China from the perspective of aesthetic education, exploring the creation and dissemination of red picture books. Among these, excellent original children's picture books on topics such as the revolutionary spirit of South China first carry content inputs related to moral, aesthetic, and intellectual education. As carriers, these original children's picture books provide rich resources and diverse artistic expressions for inheriting excellent red culture, determining the direction of the spiritual value of the picture books, aiming to carry forward the revolutionary spirit of South China and enhance national confidence and pride.

1.2. Realistic needs: inherit the revolutionary spirit and pursue the red memory

Red stories are one of the important themes in the creation of picture books in China. However, due to the slow development of the picture book industry, this has limited the role of picture books in recalling red memories, interpreting red stories, and spreading red culture. At the same time, there are fewer publications on such themes, with a lack of picture book authors and original works being significant reasons for this. Compared to excellent story picture books on other themes both domestically and internationally, red story picture books place higher demands on creators. Therefore, when creating picture books about the revolutionary spirit of South China, it is essential to be realistic, using genuine red resources as the basis for the story. Efforts should be made in story conception, painting techniques, textual appeal, and print quality. By tapping into readers' interests on an original basis, we can fundamentally change the limitations that have constrained the development of red story picture books.

From the low market share and low production and sales of illustrated books on the revolutionary spirit of South China, it is evident that the commodity market has not fully embraced this genre. The current domestic market, which includes many excellent illustrated works from both home and abroad, has to some extent impacted the development of red story illustrated books in our country. Therefore, in light of such acute practical needs, as young people in contemporary China, we need to strengthen the dissemination of the revolutionary spirit of South China and expand its market recognition and audience base.

1.3. Professional mission: to undertake the mission of teaching and educating people, and to uphold the original aspiration of cultivating people with virtue

Due to the long history and scattered distribution of red resources, many teachers lack a comprehensive understanding of the overall distribution of local red resources. Only a few kindergartens with geographical advantages and rich cultural heritage can fully develop various red resources and conduct diverse educational activities, immersing children in the atmosphere of red culture. Data shows that most kindergartens' red education is limited to routine activities within the

campus, such as flag-raising ceremonies and National Day theme events[1]. Additionally, due to their own limitations, teachers often do not know how to integrate the characteristics of children's physical and mental development when using red resources for activity design. As a result, these activities tend to be superficial and lack necessary follow-up activities.

All members of this research team are students majoring in education, shouldering the mission of teaching and nurturing. They always adhere to the original aspiration of cultivating virtue and talent. To better help the new generation of children understand the revolutionary spirit of South China and foster cultural confidence and pride, we, as future teachers, have unhesitatingly devoted ourselves to this survey activity[2]. Our goal is to integrate the implicit content of red culture into the daily lives of young children based on direct experience, aiming to permeate the educational objectives of red enlightenment education. We will follow the principles of children's age characteristics and child-centeredness, selecting educational content that interests children and closely relates to their real lives, thereby addressing the issue of single-channel approaches in current red cultural enlightenment education.

2. Research status analysis

The team members conducted research through text analysis, questionnaire and other research methods, and summarized the following three points on the development of picture books in China and the current situation of picture book creation of revolutionary spirit in South China:

2.1. The picture book market has expanded and red culture has been valued

As the concept of family education improves, more and more parents are paying attention to their children's reading education, leading to a continuously expanding market for children's picture books. Since the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the government has placed particular emphasis on promoting red culture, advocating cultural confidence and valuing the role of red culture in fostering children's patriotic enthusiasm. The current market for children's picture books is brimming with vitality and dynamism, and academic research on children's picture books has also achieved significant results.

2.2. It is difficult to create red picture books, and there are few picture books about the revolutionary spirit of South China

Research on red culture picture books is still relatively lacking, and the quality of red-themed picture books in the market varies greatly, with many issues urgently needing to be addressed. For instance, from an overall perspective of current picture books in China, there is a predominance of imported works, while domestic original creations are relatively weak. There are also certain differences and gaps in terms of presentation style and narrative structure. The creative team behind this study delved into the core elements of the revolutionary spirit of South China, simplifying historical events, and then proceeded to create picture books on the revolutionary spirit of South China. After launching related picture book courses, they found that compared to excellent story picture books of other themes both domestically and internationally, red story picture books have higher requirements for creators in terms of presentation style, narrative structure, and color usage. Picture book creation needs to deeply explore real red resources as the basis for stories, not only to cater to readers' interests but also to fundamentally change the developmental limitations of red story picture books in China. This is also a challenge faced by the picture book industry in inheriting the red gene, and South China spirit picture books are few and far between on the market, with even fewer dedicated to the theme of the revolutionary spirit of South China.

2.3. The course of illustrated books on the revolutionary spirit of South China has a broad prospect for development

In the process of creation, the creative team used the questionnaire research method to conduct investigation and analysis in the questionnaire, combining parents' satisfaction and recognition of the picture book characteristic courses that have been carried out.

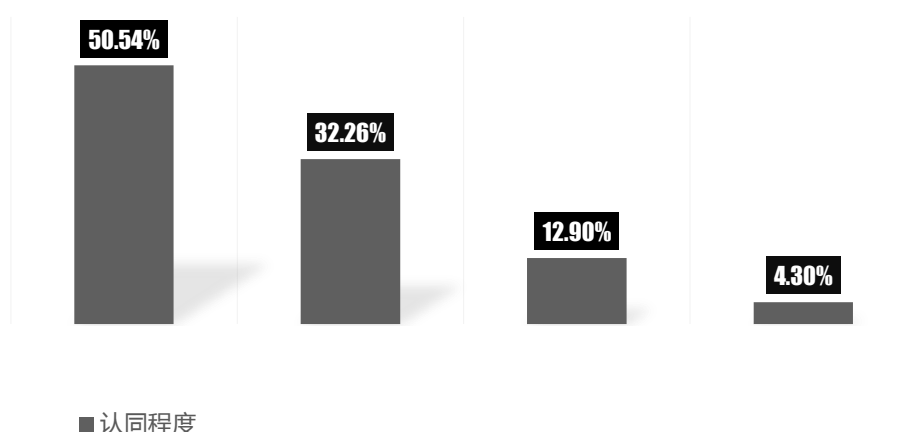


Figure 1. Column chart of the degree of recognition of the characteristic courses carried out by our team

The data shows that 50.54% of parents strongly agree with the picture book characteristic courses, while 32.26% have a relatively positive view. According to these figures, parents have a high level of agreement with the existing picture book characteristic courses, which provides strong motivation for the team to create future Nanyue Spirit picture book courses.

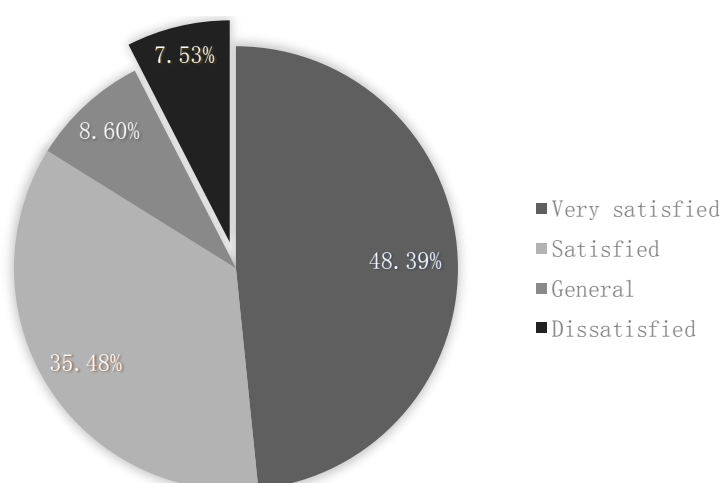


Figure 2. Pie chart of parents' satisfaction with children's participation in the South China Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book course

In terms of parental satisfaction, the data shows that 48.39% of parents are very satisfied with their children's participation in the Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book course, while 35.48% are satisfied. This indicates that parents support their children's understanding of the Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book. The creative team has gained insights into the potential demand and development prospects of this course from this feedback.

In summary, this illustrated book on the theme has a certain market demand and profound educational significance. Our team will delve deeper into the core elements of the revolutionary spirit in South China, using aesthetic education as the overarching context. We will focus on specific personal examples to explore the character of revolutionary heroes, dedicating ourselves to the creation of illustrated books on the revolutionary spirit of South China and the development of related courses, with perseverance.

3. Research contents

This study aims to explore the importance and feasibility of creating and disseminating illustrated books on the revolutionary spirit of South China. It involves in-depth research into this revolutionary spirit, aiming to establish a comprehensive and practical system for creating illustrated books and designing classroom activities based on it. This will enhance the integration of moral and aesthetic education for children, fostering their ability to perceive, discover, and create beauty. The study also seeks to effectively deepen children's cultural confidence and identity with the revolutionary spirit of South China. The detailed content is as follows.

First, from "what it is," explore the connotations of the revolutionary spirit in South China and the importance and feasibility of creating and disseminating illustrated books on this spirit from an aesthetic education perspective, laying a solid foundation for the creation and dissemination of these books. By reviewing literature and books, investigate the significance of creating illustrated books under the broad context of aesthetic education, as well as the impact of the revolutionary spirit in South China on the growth and development of children aged 3-12. Conduct an in-depth study on the creation and dissemination of illustrated books on the revolutionary spirit in South China from an aesthetic education perspective, summarize successful experiences from related research projects, and propose directions and content that still require further research.

Second, from "how," by understanding the current status of the dissemination of the revolutionary spirit in South China, and leveraging the advantages of its revolutionary history and culture, we aim to provide direction for future research paths. This involves practical research on the creation and dissemination of illustrated books about the revolutionary spirit in South China. Through visits to numerous red education bases such as the Site Memorial of the Third National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Guangzhou Uprising Memorial Hall, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, and the Site Memorial of Comrade Mao Zedong's Study Institute, and interviews with veterans of the South China revolution, we listen to stories from the South China revolution, thereby deeply appreciating the revolutionary spirit and the rich atmosphere of red culture in South China. Additionally, our team interviewed some schools in South China to understand their educational philosophies, campus cultures, and teaching characteristics, and participated in relevant teaching activities. For children at the kindergarten and primary school age stages, we used action research methods to investigate their understanding and acceptance of South China revolutionary culture, exploring the practical conditions for the creation and dissemination of illustrated books about the revolutionary spirit in South China.

Third, "how to do it," providing specific suggestions for promoting the revolutionary spirit of South China from multiple levels, constructing a comprehensive and feasible system for creating and designing picture books on the revolutionary spirit of South China, and combining two methods:

organizing creative activities for picture books on the revolutionary spirit of South China and practical teaching in picture book classes. Firstly, this study will hold a competition for creating picture books on the revolutionary spirit of South China at universities, selecting outstanding original picture books under this theme, and sharing them online through audio-visual platforms. Secondly, relying on the Guangdong Children's Picture Book Education Science Popularization Base, we will conduct courses such as picture books on the revolutionary spirit of South China and other red education courses, while also holding reading sharing sessions for picture books on the revolutionary spirit of South China in some kindergartens and primary schools in the region. Based on classroom teaching practices, using various research methods such as action research and observation to analyze the shortcomings of picture book classes on the revolutionary spirit of South China, making revisions, trial classes, and other processes before applying them to formal teaching, providing theoretical and practical support and educational strategies for the creation of picture books on the revolutionary spirit of South China and picture book courses.

4. Research methods adopted in view of the current situation

4.1. Action research method

According to the objectives and content of this study, our team has determined action research as the primary research method. The service targets of this study are children aged 3-12. In the action research approach, team members are creators and researchers of the Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book. They plan to trace the origins through literature review and conduct field visits, pursuing the red memories of Nanyue, uncovering elements for creating revolutionary spirit, and using survey questionnaires and interviews to continuously observe the dissemination effects of the Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book. Throughout the overall research process, our team practices, reflects, and studies simultaneously, providing timely feedback and revising the action plan. We engage in research while acting and act while researching, following a three-stage spiral cycle of planning—action-observation-reflection-adjustment. This process helps us summarize the research findings on picture book creation and dissemination and propose targeted recommendations[3].

4.2. Text analysis method

The team members primarily searched for keywords such as "Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit," "Red Picture Books," "Picture Book Dissemination," "Red Picture Book Education," and "Nanyue Spirit Dissemination" on China National Knowledge Infrastructure. They analyzed a large number of journals, academic papers, and other research findings. Additionally, the researchers borrowed relevant materials from the library, purchased related books, and conducted systematic learning, which provided a solid theoretical foundation for the implementation of this study.

4.3. Questionnaire method

The questionnaire used in this study refers to the "Satisfaction Survey on the Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book Course," which was compiled after conducting action research. The survey primarily consists of open-ended questions, with closed-ended questions serving as a supplement. This version is for parents, who have read the Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book created by our team or attended the course. The aim of this questionnaire is to understand the development of the Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book course, thereby providing relevant suggestions for the construction of red education courses and establishing design principles and

specific models for telling the Nanyue spirit well. Through the questionnaire, our team will analyze aspects such as the communication subject, significance, effectiveness, and channels, and collect public opinions on using picture books to spread the Nanyue revolutionary spirit.

4.4. Interview method

In this research activity, our team conducted in-depth interviews with children who participated in picture book classes, picture book exhibitions and picture book reading, so as to understand the dissemination and difficulties of spreading the revolutionary spirit of South China through children's picture books, and find solutions and future development directions from them.

5. Research results

5.1. Field investigation to explore the essence of the revolutionary spirit in South China

President Xi Jinping once said that we should make good use of red resources, carry forward the red tradition, and pass on the red gene, so that the revolutionary cause can be passed down from generation to generation and its spirit will endure forever. With President Xi's instructions in mind, our team formed a picture book research and creation team for field visits. Team members successively visited the Guangzhou Uprising Memorial Hall, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, and other red education bases. Through these visits, team members gained a deep understanding of the revolutionary spirit of South China and profoundly felt the great spirit of the revolutionary predecessors who dedicated their lives to the people's cause. They drew strength from their faith in the red gene, exploring the roots of the South China spirit and tracing the soul of South China culture on the land of South China. By summarizing the experiences gained from the field visits, they provided authentic and powerful content materials for the team's picture book creation.

5.2. Interview the pioneers of South China and feel the connotation of the revolutionary spirit of South China

To gain a deeper understanding of the revolutionary spirit of South China, team members visited veteran Party member Comrade Deng Chengjun. Drawing on his personal experiences, Comrade Deng recounted several significant episodes from his revolutionary struggle, vividly recreating the war years and the fighting spirit of the soldiers. The student Party members present were deeply captivated by the old comrade's stories. Through interviews, we delved into the source of strength behind the revolutionary spirit of South China, firmly resolved to tell red stories well and inherit the red gene. We aim to combine the revolutionary spirit of South China with picture book stories, striving to preserve the authenticity of these red stories and create high-quality narratives for more people to hear.

5.3. The process of picture book creation lays the foundation for the dissemination of the revolutionary spirit of South China

Picture book creation is a long-term process, during which many detailed issues need to be decided. Only by clarifying the content of your creation can you find a clear direction when feeling lost in the creative process. Our team focuses on three aspects: preliminary research and discussion, reference material review, and preparation for picture book creation. We aim to integrate the revolutionary spirit of South China into our work while laying a solid foundation for its dissemination.

5.3.1. Carry out research work and improve the deficiencies in the preliminary research results

To improve the preliminary research findings, our creative team first convened a seminar on the preliminary results of the Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book creation. Through online literature review, interviews with Nanyue's pioneers, and on-site investigations, we further supplemented and refined the initial research outcomes. At the same time, the mentor provided valuable suggestions regarding the issues and shortcomings in the preliminary research: to supplement original materials and pay attention to integrating the cultural spirit of the Nanyue Revolution with the content of the picture book. These suggestions have profound guiding significance for both the improvement of the preliminary research results and future research efforts.

5.3.2. Consult the picture book data to find inspiration for the story of the revolutionary spirit in South China

In terms of reference to picture books, team members searched for inspiration from picture book stories on the theme of revolutionary spirit in South China through a combination of online and offline methods. They collected various picture book story materials and detailed picture book story design schemes through library resources and e-books, and combined the story content for design, which provided more inspiration for picture book creation.

5.3.3. Prepare picture book creation to improve the effect of spreading the revolutionary spirit of South China

In the preparation for creating picture books, our creative team first focused on the revolutionary spirit of South China, planning around the content of the picture book and setting the main storyline. We also determined the narrative perspective, framework, and style of the picture book, making thorough preparations for its creation. Next, the creators drew illustrations based on the story content, using appropriate colors and text to convey different emotions, making it easier for children to understand the content. Furthermore, through field research and data collection, our team realized that the painting content should emphasize showcasing various red memorial sites to stimulate children's interest in reading and enhance the dissemination of the revolutionary spirit of South China. Finally, the creative team had detailed discussions on the structure of the picture book, such as the arrangement of text and images, and the design of front and back endpapers. They also edited the text and images to remove unnecessary content, ensuring that the content of the picture book is clearer and more complete, and the emotions conveyed are more accurate.

6. Launching theme activities on the revolutionary spirit of South China

6.1. Found a children's picture book salon

The establishment of children's picture book salons aims to spark children's interest in reading, adhering to the teaching philosophy of "learning through play." In these salons, not only are there sessions for reading picture books, but also various group games and individual competitions related to the themes of the books. This allows children to learn in a more relaxed atmosphere, enhancing their enthusiasm for reading. The theme of this session focuses on the revolutionary spirit of South China, where children encounter stories of the South China revolution and the deeds of its pioneers during their reading and playing, planting seeds of red culture in their hearts.

6.2. Open public classes for children's picture books

The Children's Picture Book Public Welfare Classroom is a program where our team leads volunteers to nearby communities, kindergartens, and primary schools to set up public welfare classes. The main content involves teaching picture books on the theme of the revolutionary spirit of South China. In these classes, children are highly active and engaged. Through lively and interesting explanations and exquisite teaching materials, the children gain a deeper understanding of the revolutionary spirit of South China. Post-class interviews reveal that the children have formed their own perspectives on this revolutionary spirit.

6.3. Organize parent-child reading sharing sessions

Parent-child reading sharing sessions, themed around the revolutionary spirit of South China, aim to encourage children to read more, see more, and listen more. This initiative strengthens interaction between parents and children, helping parents recognize the effectiveness of picture books in enhancing children's cognitive development. Through activities related to the theme, such as the "Let's Get Our Hands Dirty" event, where parents and children work together to create exhibition boards on the revolutionary spirit of South China, they gradually deepen their understanding of this spirit. In these small activities, children also develop a sense of national pride, learning what it means to be part of a larger family.

During the activity, parents and children had a very bright smile on their faces. Children were very interested in the picture book content, and parents also actively explained the picture book story to the children. The team members randomly interviewed several parents, who all said that they liked this activity very much:

Parent 1: "I think this activity is very well organized. We are busy and we don't have time to take our children to understand the culture and spirit of South China, so I think this activity is very meaningful."

Parent 2: "The child is very happy today. She said she wants to be a party member when she grows up. Thank you for opening such an activity!"

6.4. Set up a children's picture book drifting activity

The launch of the children's picture book drifting activity aims to facilitate children in borrowing and returning picture books themed on the revolutionary spirit of South China, thereby helping them to read the books carefully and deeply understand their content. Through this borrowing and drifting activity, the dissemination channels for red-themed picture books have been broadened to some extent. In the process of reading, children's reading skills, language expression abilities, and aesthetic appreciation are enhanced. At the same time, it allows children to learn about the revolutionary stories of South China, experience the essence of the revolutionary spirit, and deepen their cultural recognition of this land. This is conducive to cultivating a correct outlook on life and values in children.

7. Compare the practice before and after, and explore the significance of reading revolutionary picture books in South China

The ultimate meaning of practice is the value that the team adheres to. Before and after the practice, a certain research analysis was made on the changes of children reading the picture books of the revolutionary spirit of South Guangdong before and after through questionnaires and interviews for a specific group of children. The results showed that:

7.1. Reading the illustrated book of the South China Revolution can effectively make up for the lack of ability education caused by family indulgence

According to data surveys and offline classroom investigations, it has been found that most children today, due to improved family conditions, do not understand the meaning of "hardship." Many parents indulge their children with excessive protection, tirelessly taking care of everything for them, which sends a message — that they don't need to overcome difficulties on their own. This, to some extent, undermines the ability of children to be independent and self-reliant. However, red spirit education based on the revolutionary history of South China focuses on teaching children not to fear hardships and obstacles, but to find ways to overcome them and ultimately achieve victory. It conveys positive energy of striving forward and facing challenges head-on, which can effectively counteract the negative effects of excessive indulgence.

7.2. Reading the illustrated book of South China Revolution can effectively save the grey concept of family

In today's society, with the diversification of cultural development, some parents, in their pursuit of advanced educational methods, tend to overlook the education of excellent Chinese culture for their children. As the pace of social life accelerates, many parents, driven by an excessive focus on material wealth, neglect the spiritual education of their children, which greatly challenges traditional ideas such as "heaven rewards diligence, hard work leads to prosperity, and thrift is essential." This also influences the thoughts and behaviors of children. The Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book Education aims to uncover countless role models across Nanyue who have fought tirelessly for their ideals and were willing to sacrifice personal interests for the greater good. By creating vivid and specific stories of the Nanyue revolution, it conveys positive energy to children, emphasizing truth-seeking, hard struggle, and steady progress, effectively countering the infiltration of the notion that "one can gain without effort."

7.3. Reading illustrated books about the South China Revolution can effectively supplement the weakened moral education

The ideal belief education in kindergartens and primary and secondary schools has been increasingly marginalized due to the impact of utilitarian thinking[4]. Research shows that under the influence of concepts such as "score above all," "admission above all," and "elite education," red education, which primarily focuses on revolutionary traditions, has been weakened. Many children are unfamiliar with historical figures from the revolutionary era, and the fine revolutionary traditions passed down through generations have been inadvertently or intentionally eroded. The Nanyue Revolutionary Spirit Picture Book Education addresses these phenomena by providing more children with red cultural education, helping them understand local revolutionary events, figures, and stories. This subtly helps children develop noble and healthy moral sentiments and strengthen their moral will.

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