**THE SHARING GAME** (Reardon and Cabezudo, 2002)

**Source:** This learning unit was prepared by Meg Gardinier (2001) as part of the TC Peace Education Team at Teachers College, Columbia University.

*The following lesson is an example of educating for peace as it promotes the values of sharing and cooperation in learners. As the lesson explains, cooperation and sharing are necessary elements for building peace.*

*The following exercise is intended to help learners better understand each other and to build relationships of trust and appreciation for others. Conflicts often occur when people lack understanding of others’ perspectives. To avoid the escalation of conflict and to promote peace and nonviolence, cooperation is essential. Sharing and creating stories together is one way children can begin to develop the skills and attitudes necessary for a culture of peace.*

**Step 1**

Ask students to bring to class an object that is special to them such as a toy, a photo, a book, a piece of clothing, a food, or any other item that they would like to show friends and classmates

**Step 2**

Explain the “rules” of the game to students:

1. All students will have an opportunity to tell the class (or a small group) about their special objects. While a fellow student is sharing the story of his or her object, others should be listening and giving full attention to that student. Everyone should listen very carefully, because they need to learn why the object is important to their classmate. Listening to each other is how people become friends.

1. Students can be encouraged to ask questions to learn more about the special objects of others. The teacher can promote a discussion that enables students to learn about each other and the things that are special and important to each of their classmates.

1. When the discussion indicates understanding of the importance their classmates attach to the objects, form groups of 3 students into “story teams.” Each story team will then use the objects they brought to create a story about peace.

 To end the game, all the peace stories will be shared with the whole class.

**Step 3**

Have students share their thoughts and feeling about the stories they have just heard.

The teacher can explain that when people share with and listen to one another, they are helping make the world a more peaceful place. Fighting starts when people stop listening to one another.

<https://www.sharedlife.org.il/ShowItem.aspx?ItemID=d14f47c3-31b1-4e03-b38f-01e64cf52e6c&lang=EN>

