

Rescue Godzilla

Goal: Teaching character education through experiential learning.

"Intelligence plus character – that is the true goal of education." -- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Number of Participants: 10-16 people

Time Estimation: 45 minutes

Materials: 1 ring, 16 cotton strings, 1 raw egg (you can also replace it by a ping-pong ball, but it may not let people feel excited.), several big plastic bags (blanketing them on the ground), 1 paper cup.

Catalysis: We are a group of highly-trained explorers. After suffering all conceivable hardships, we finally found a dinosaur egg (the Godzilla egg) on the top of a 3000-meter mountain. Our mission is to move it to a protecting box. However, because the egg was polluted by harmful radiations, we need to move it by this special ring invented by scientists so that we can prevent from infection. The safety rules to do the mission as following:

1. Spread out the ropes of the ring orderly (i.e. do not overlap the ropes). Each member has to grasp at least one string. If there are extra ropes, some members can grasp one in each hand.
2. The action is going to start. Please grasp the knot at the end of the string to prevent from being infected by radiations. If there is anyone violated the rule (ex. Grasp the other part of the string, but not knot.), his or her hand that grasped the wrong place of the string will be regarded as injured and that hand cannot be used again.
3. Next, try to move the egg to the center of the ring and put the egg in a paper cup far from here around 4 meters. During the process of moving egg, the egg is only allowed to be touched by strings and the ring.
4. The mission is not finished until the egg has been put in the paper cup. The cup cannot be moved. If the egg drops on the ground, just restart it from where it drops.

Discussion Method: ORID

- **What (analysis):** What facts caught your attention during the activity? What was the most impressive thing you noticed? What did you think your role (leader, listener, coordinator, observer, foster, etc.) was in the activity? Why?
- **So What (connection):** Consider the role you played, use your fingers to show how much degree of your responsibility was in the activity (1-10: from low to high). As the role you play in daily life, what do you think the heaviest responsibility is?
- **Now What (application):** If "Rescue Godzilla" represents a job in real life, and the way you did the mission is like your responsibility in a team, what benefits do you think the attitude of responsibility will bring you and the team?

Source: Hong, C. (2005). *Building Noble Characters by Playing—Learning through Adventure Education*. Taipei City: Campus Evangelical Fellowship.

P.S. Here are some related websites you may be interested in:

1. <http://www.infed.org/biblio/b-explrn.htm>
2. <http://www.pa.org/>
3. <http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm>
4. <http://ica-associates.ca/Resources/Articles/ORIDing.pdf>
5. <http://www.nols.edu/>
6. <http://www.aee.org/customer/pages.php?pageid=28>
7. <http://www.outwardbound.org/>

A recommended teacher's handbook: Nelson, J. (2001). *The Art of Focused Conversation for schools: Over 100 ways to Guide Clear Thinking and Promote Learning*. Gabriola Island, BC : New Society Publishers.