



Class Three: "I Am, Who Are You"?

The children will turn nine in this year, and the developmental stage known as the 'nine-year-old crisis' occurs around this time. The children find they are now 'on the earth', there is a perception of individuality and 'aloneness', and they no longer experience themselves as one with the world. The children will question those things that previously went unquestioned: "Who are you to tell me?", "What is my real name?", "Am I adopted?" They will push boundaries, venture forth fearlessly when you wish they wouldn't and shrivel up fearfully where once they were confident. With the ninth year there comes an important stage in the development of the growing child, and this should be carefully watched and considered in teaching and education. It is the age when the child first really feels separate from the surroundings, which formerly were taken so much for granted. Self-consciousness becomes noticeably stronger and the soul-life more inward and independent. All the child's powers of consciousness stir to life, and a wish to learn to know both teacher and world from a new angle. The nine-year-old wants to revere consciously what was formerly loved in a childlike way, but needs to feel that reverence is justified. This age makes great claims on the wisdom and tact of the teacher. The children need to be protected from a feeling of disappointment with themselves or the world, which they can so easily fall into at this age, especially in the presence of world-weary or cynical adults.

The task: The Expulsion from Paradise mirrors the soul feeling of the nine-year-olds who now experience themselves as truly on the earth; heaven is lost to them and who will care for them? Just as Jehovah watched over and guided the Hebrews, so the adults around the children must reassure them that they know what is right and good and will show them the way. As the children now experience their bodies as 'the house of my soul', supporting lessons in the curriculum include 'House-Building' which investigates the history and technology of house building and especially the different people, tasks and crafts involved in providing a home. 'Farming and Gardening' teaches the wonder and history of growing food and caring for the soil and the body. Finally, in 'People at Work' the children experience the many different ways in which we all support each other with our particular contribution to society.

Story The Old Testament; Maori Creation Myths
Curriculum:

Main Lessons: Form drawing
 Speaking, Writing, Reading
 Parts of Speech
 Reading
 Mathematics
 Practical Lessons - Farming, House Building,
 Festivals

Other Lessons: Visual Art - Drawing, painting, crafts
 Music - Introduction of rounds, beginning violin, cello
 Movement
 Handwork - crochet
 Maori - Waiata, Te Reo