

Children's Moments on Halloween Fair Trade

Ava: (Reading pen pal letter) I think I'll go see my friends at Sesame street and tell them about my new pen pal. I'm so excited about her.

Hi Count, Oscar and Cookie Monster.

Cookie Monster: Hi Ava. How are you? You seem happy about something. What's up?

Ava: You'll never guess what I have – a pen pal. Her name is Cecilia. She's from the Dominican Republic.

Oscar: The Dominican Republic. I've never heard of that city. Is it near us?

Ava: No silly Oscar. It's a country in the Caribbean Sea on an island that it shares with another country called Haiti .

Oscar: Me glad me don't live there. It's too hard to pronounce.

Ava: She lives on a cocoa farm that's part of a big cooperative with 10,000 farmer families called Conacado which stands for Union of Cocoa Cooperatives.

Oscar he Grouch: Aye Yai! yai! Too many big words.

Count Dracula: I wish I could visit there and count all the family farmers. How many members are in Cecilia's family?

Ava: Her mother, Miguelina, and her husband, Luis, have 4 children. Her mother, is always very busy tending the cocoa trees and volunteering to help people who are suffering as well as volunteering for her church and election committee in her spare time.

Oscar: She works too much! You wouldn't catch me volunteering and working.

Ava: Cecilia is so proud of her mom. She is such a good leader and does so much for her community.

Oscar the grouch: What does Cecilia want to do when she grows up?

Ava: Cecilia says she can do anything she wants when she grows up because she is going to graduate from high school and go to college. Her Mom graduated from high school. The place where she lives was able to build a school and hire teachers because of the Fair Trade premium. It's a little extra money added to the cost of

the cocoa that farmers get to use for whatever they need in their communities. They were able to build a road too so it was easier to get to school. She loves being part of a Fair Trade coop. She is so lucky to have clean water, electricity, health care, loans when they need money and a nice place to live. Life is good there because of all the good things Fair Trade has been able to give them.

Oscar the Grouch: Oh this is boring. Who cares about the things Fair Trade has given her family?

Ava: Well, Oscar, it's not at all boring to have think about all of the benefits of being a Fair Trade farm – better pay, learning leadership skills and how to manage a business with others in a democratic way, getting paid enough to have money for school supplies and clothing and be able go to the doctor when you are sick. That is something everyone deserves to have. Cecilia's mom was even able to get a loan to grow other things to sell at the market. And most exciting, the coop owns a processing plant in San Francisco that makes cocoa powder, cocoa butter and other things to sell. Isn't that cool?

Oscar: No, I am utterly bored.

Cookie Monster: Did she send any cookies? Me like chocolate chip cookies. In fact me like any cookies!

Ava: No cookies but she did send me some chocolate bars - (showing him and Cookie Monster the chocolate bars).

Count Dracula: I count chocolate bars – so many different kinds.

Oscar the Grouch: Why would companies pay more for cocoa beans and customers pay more for chocolate bars if they could get them for less. I never heard of such a stupid thing. I don't believe it. I wouldn't pay more.

Ava: Oh Oscar. Don't you care about the welfare of people you do business with? Don't you want to be fair and see other people happy? Besides Fair Trade chocolate tastes better because the farmers grow it in a healthy way without bad chemicals.

Oscar: No I would rather have more money for myself. I don't like to share and who cares if other people are happy. I just care about myself being happy.

Ava: Oscar, having more money doesn't make you happy. Seeing the world be fairer makes you happy.

Oscar: Oh I guess you're right, Ava

Cookie Monster: Me think these Fair Trade companies are the way to go. Are there any Fair Trade cookies?

Ava: No but we can make Fair Trade cookies by using Fair Trade ingredients like sugar, chocolate and vanilla. In England and other European countries, Cecilia says there are fair trade cookies and bars, some even made by Cadbury and Nestle's because people there buy Fair Trade. I wish we had them here.

Cookie monster: I'm going to write chocolate companies and demand they make Fair Trade cookies.

Ava: I'm going to spread the word about Fair Trade chocolate tomorrow. It's Halloween. I'm going to hand out Equal Exchange chocolate and a card explaining Fair Trade to the houses where I trick or treat. Do you want to come along? You can trick or treat with me.

Cookie Monster: Yes, will I get cookies?

Count Dracula: Yes, can I count the chocolate you hand out?

Oscar: I don't like meeting strangers and having to say trick or treat. They will only say something like, oh look at that cute guy in the garbage can. I hate that! It's so annoying!

Ava: Cookie Monster, I'll make some chocolate chip cookies for you. Dracula, I'll bring along cocoa beans and you can count how many cocoa beans it takes to make one pound of chocolate. It's 400.

Count Dracula: Oh boy 400. I can't wait! Where are those cocoa beans? I want to count them now.

Next Day

Count Dracula: ...398, 399.. 400 There I counted all the beans. Now what can I count?

Cookie Monster: We haven't gotten any cookies yet, Ava. Me so sad. I want cookies.

Group: Trick or treat!

Woman at House: Oh Look it's Cookie Monster, the Count and Oscar the Grouch. Look at how cute you are in your little trash can! (Oscar groans). What have we here? You're giving us chocolate? Well that's a switch!

Ava: It's fair trade chocolate from Equal Exchange and Divine Chocolate, both fair trade companies. We're handing these out to spread the word about Fair Trade and how it helps families and kids stay out of poverty and get an education.

Woman at House: Well, guess what we have for you? We're giving Equal Exchange chocolate too.

Cookie Monster: You don't have cookies? Me love cookies!

House Woman: Oh cookie monster, we can give you some cookies. We made some chocolate chip cookies with our Fair Trade chocolate chips. Here, have some.

Cookie Monster: Oh me so happy. Thank you!

Ava: I'm so happy too! You support Fair Trade! Cecilia and her family thank you too.

Count Dracula: Let's count how much candy we have now. 1-2-3-4- Ha Ha Ha

Ava: Let's pray:

Thank you God for giving us the opportunity to support fair trade and help provide for all children the opportunity to be what they want to be when they grow up.