

Perfect Worlds

5 Recipes for Peace and Happiness

Scene 1 A New Eden

Man: This will be the perfect world - a world where everyone can be equal and nobody feels worse off than anybody else - and that way everybody will be happy.

Boy: Where will we live?

Man: We'll find a forest somewhere warm, with streams and trees and perhaps a mountain or two for the view.

Girl: Will it be sunny every day?

Man: Sunny most days but with some rain so we can grow our crops.

Boy: Will we keep animals?

Man: Of course.

Girl: Like dogs and cats and chickens?

Man: Yes and they will live with us in the forest.

Boy: What, in our house?

Man: No they can live in a field or in a barn.

Girl: But that's not fair or democratic – they should be equal to us and live in the house with us – I know cats don't like it when it rains.

Man: Ok – the cats and dogs can live in the house with us but all the other animals have to live outside.

Girl: But ...

Man: Look – chickens love it outside – they can peck around the place and find worms to eat.

Boy: But aren't worms part of the perfect world? Shouldn't they be equal to every one else?

Man: Worms?

Boy: Yes – my teacher says worms are an essential element in the local ecology – if the chickens eat them that wouldn't be very fair and equal for the worms, would it?

Man: Ok – we won't let the chickens eat them – they can have corn instead.

Boy: That sounds better.

Man: Anyway – if we feed the chickens corn they'll taste a lot nicer.

Girl: What?

- Man:** Corn-fed chicken is delicious.
- Girl:** But we can't eat our fellow citizens of the perfect world.
- Man:** Chickens aren't citizens – they're just animals.
- Girl:** Just animals! I thought you said in a perfect world we're all equal .
- Man:** Yes but ...
- Boy:** Human beings are animals too you know.
- Man:** But ordinary animals are less intelligent than us humans – that's why we can eat them if we want.
- Boy:** So will we eat the cats and the dogs?
- Man:** No of course not – cats and dogs have names.
- Girl:** But I want to give the chickens names too – Clara Cluck and Penelope Peck and Christopher Cockerel – it's not fair that they can't have names too.
- Man:** Ok. We won't eat the chickens – we'll eat corn as well.
- Girl:** That sounds better.
- Man:** Good.
- Boy:** I don't think just because I'm more intelligent that gives me the right to eat another creature.
- Man:** Ok.
- Boy:** Otherwise I could eat half the kids in my class at school.
- Man:** I see your point.
- Girl:** But once we've set up our perfect world, will anyone will be able to come in?
- Man:** Of course.
- Boy:** I'll have to think about that.
- Girl:** Me too.

Song/Dance **Everybody's Welcome – a counting out game**

Ev'rybody's welcome in my perfect land.
Come on in and join the fun.
Ev'rybody's welcome, come and take my hand.
Ev'rybody's welcome except one.

If your name begins with T,
You cannot be friends with me.
If you're wearing something blue,
So sorry – I can't be seen with you.

If your legs are long and thin,
You are never coming in.

If your mother is too poor,
So sorry – you can't come through the door.

So ev'rybody's welcome in my perfect land.
Come on in and join the fun.
Ev'rybody's welcome, come and take my hand.
Ev'rybody's welcome except one.

If you work too hard at school,
You can't share my world at all.
Showing off without a doubt,
So sorry – I'll have to lock you out.

If you won't do what I say,
You will have to stay away.
If your face ain't what I like,
So sorry – you're gonna take a hike.

We're so sorry.

One come in,
Two stay out,
Three you have to stand.
Four come in,
Five stay out,
Six get off my land.
Seven come in,
Eight stay out,
Nine don't come too near.
Ten come in,
Eleven stay out,
Twelve get out of here!

Ev'rybody's welcome in my perfect land.
Come on in and join the fun.
Ev'rybody's welcome, come and take my hand.
Ev'rybody's welcome except one.

If your fam'ly's not like mine,
I'll put up a Keep Out sign.