

Teaching Values through Grace

When we get together as an extended family, my husband (who is very fond of poetry) recites this poem before meals. I feel it imparts to us, our children and grandchildren a sense of being part of an inter-connected whole.... A subtle reminder!

It was written by Bruce Mason (1921-1982), a famous NZ playwright who influenced the cultural landscape of the country through his contribution to theatre. Mason's most well known plays are *The End of the Golden Weather* and *The Pohutukawa Tree*.

When his daughter was eight years old, she visited friends who said grace, She asked why her family did not. Her parents explained. She then asked her father to write one just for her. Here it is:-

A Child's Grace

From air and soil,
From bees and sun,
From others' toil,
My bread is won.

And when I bite,
The soil, the air,
The bees and light
Are still all there.

So I must think
Each day afresh,
How food and drink
Became my flesh.

And then I'll see

The great big sun
The earth, the bee
And me, all one.

Bruce Mason

