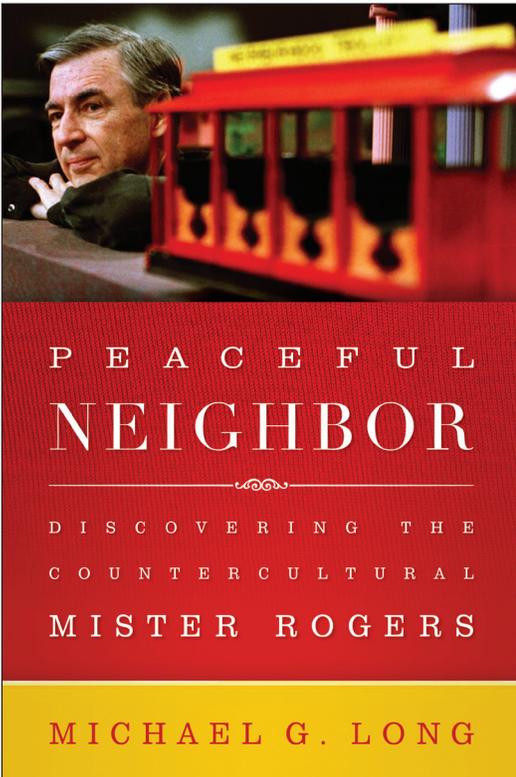


Book Club Questions for Michael Long's *Peaceful Neighbor*



What are your primary memories of Mister Rogers? How would you have described Fred Rogers and the program *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* before reading this book?

Do you remember seeing any of the iconic scenes discussed in the book? Reading about their context and significance, which episode or scene stands out to you now?

Adults are often wary of talking to children about war or violence. What can we learn from Mister Rogers about handling those frightening topics in an appropriate and meaningful way?

Rogers told children “I like you just the way you are,” and “It’s okay to be angry.” How do unconditional acceptance and freedom to express anger promote peace?

Part Two of the book is titled “Peace as More Than the Absence of War.” Do you agree that the topics covered in

chapters 7-12 (racial, gender, and LGBTQ equality; hunger and poverty; and the environment) are important to creating a peaceful world? How so?

Rogers wasn’t afraid to critique American military action, foreign policy, or attitudes on welfare, but avoided controversy by declining to show an interracial couple or a gay character. How do you think Rogers rationalized making some of his values public while keeping others private?

In what ways was Rogers more radical or countercultural than you realized? Are there ways in which you think he went too far or did not go far enough?

Imagine what episodes Rogers would plan today to address current issues in our world. What might the week’s theme be, and what storylines would be written for the Neighborhood of Make Believe and Rogers’ TV house?

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