

Case Study

Psyche Mae, Philippines



Includes a story, classroom activities
and worksheets for:

- F-Y2
- Y3-4
- Y5-6

CaseStudy: Psyche-Mae, Mozambique

Lower Primary (F-2)



[Note to Teachers: Caritas Australia first shared Psyche Mae's story 10 years ago. This story revisits how things have changed for Psyche Mae and her family after joining a Caritas Australia supported program in the Philippines.](#)

When Psyche Mae was a young child, the only place her parents could find to live was on the edge of a rubbish tip close to a big city called Manila, in the Philippines.

Psyche Mae's mother used to make things out of rubbish to sell at the market to make money for food. Her father worked when he could, but life was hard for their family.

Psyche Mae's family then joined an Urban Renewal program supported by Caritas Australia. Psyche Mae's mother learnt how to make bags to sell. Psyche Mae and her brothers and sister would help their mother at night.

Other people learnt to make cards and cook food to sell. Together the women run a little bank and a small shop.

Life improved for Psyche Mae's family and she and her brothers and sister have been able to go to school.

Fast forward to 2018 – Psyche Mae's mother is a full-time sewer, working from home, and her father works with the House Repair program run by one of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines. With their jobs and the help of a community savings plan – Psyche Mae's family have managed to lift themselves out of poverty and build a just future.

Psyche Mae is now a social worker. She is very good at helping people who have moved to the city looking for work, but like her family, don't

have a permanent home to live in. She is a hard worker, working full-time and studying after work at university.

Two of her brothers and her sister are all studying too, ranging from primary school to university. They work hard at school and walk one hour to get there.

For Psyche Mae and her brothers and sister, a just future started with the chance to go to school.

Classroom Activities (F-Y2)



FIND THE INTERACTIVE STUDENT WORKBOOK AT
<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1129238071779262465>
(Click 'Refresh' if the hot spot icons don't display correctly.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Prayer

Loving God,
You have given us the gift of education. Help us
to use our knowledge to educate others about
our unequal world and to help those in need.
Amen.

Or write or say your own prayer for Psyche Mae
and her community.



Catholic Social Teaching Principles: The Common Good

We believe in working towards what is good for
everyone, not just what is good for ourselves.

Discuss:

1. How is Psyche Mae working for the common good?
2. How does your support of Caritas Australia work towards the common good?

LEARNING TASKS

**INQUIRY TOPIC: A JUST FUTURE STARTS WITH
OPPORTUNITY**



Task 1: Story Study

English ACELY1650, ACELY1660, ACELY1670.

Read Psyche Mae's story and discuss:

1. Where does Psyche Mae live?
2. What made life hard for Psyche Mae when she was a child?
3. What helped make things better for Psyche Mae and her family?
4. How did Caritas Australia help?
5. How are you and Psyche Mae similar and different? Write your answers in your book or use a Venn diagram (p.8).
6. Retell Psyche Mae's story in a series of captioned images.



Task 2: Photo comprehension

English ACELY1680, ACELY1692.

What can you see in the picture?

1. Where do you think the picture was taken?
2. How do you think the people are feeling?
3. How can you tell?
4. What would you like to ask them?
5. What do you think will happen next?



Task 3: Philippines Country Study (Y2)

Geography Y2 ACHASSK047

Search for the tags in the interactive student workbook (or your own research) to find the answers to the following facts about the Philippines:

1. official languages,
2. climate,
3. some of the reasons why life is hard for some people in the Philippines.

Use Google Maps to find the location of the Philippines and Australia.



Task 4: Strengths

Health & Physical Education F, ACPPS001, Y1/2 ACPPS015

1. What is Psyche Mae's talent or strength? (What is she good at?)
2. How does Psyche Mae use her strength to help others in her community?
3. What are your talents or strengths?
4. How can you use your strengths to help your family and others?



Task 5: I can help others too! (Worksheet p.9)

Religious Education

Psyche Mae is using her education to help other families who are less fortunate. Think about what you are learning at school that can help you help others.

Finish the sentences

1. At school I am learning to ...
2. I can help others by

CaseStudy: Psyche Mae, Mozambique

Middle Primary (Y3-4)

"If FCJ's Integrated Community Development Program was never around, maybe we would all still be living in poverty."

- Psyche Mae



When Psyche Mae was a young child, the only place her parents could find for them to live was on the edge of a rubbish tip close to a big city called Manila, in the Philippines.

Psyche Mae's mother made things out of rubbish to sell at the market to make money for food. Her father worked when he could. When school fees needed to be paid or someone got sick they had to borrow from moneylenders at very high interest rates.

Life changed for the better when Psyche Mae's family joined an Integrated Community Development program run by Caritas Australia's partner, the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Psyche Mae's mother learnt how to make bags to sell. Other people learnt to make cards and cook food to sell. Members of the program run a small community shop and a savings and credit group.

Life improved for Psyche Mae's family and she and her brothers and sister have been able to go to school.

Fast forward to 2018 – Psyche Mae's mother is a full-time sewer working from home and her father works with the House Repair program run by one of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines. With their jobs and the help of a community savings plan – Psyche Mae's entire family have managed to lift themselves out of poverty and build a just future.

Psyche Mae is now a qualified social worker for the Philippines Government, helping other informal settlers, particularly women. She is a hard worker, working full-time and studying after work at university, where she plans to continue on to study a Master's degree.

Two of her brothers and her sister are still studying, ranging from primary school to university. They work hard at school and walk one hour to get there.

For Psyche Mae and her brothers and sister, a just future started with opportunity. A Just Future starts with all of us.

Classroom Activities Y3-4



FIND THE **INTERACTIVE STUDENT WORKBOOK AT**
<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1129241570852208641>
(Click 'Refresh' if the hot spot icons don't display correctly.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Prayer

Loving God,
You have given us the gift of education. Help us to use
our knowledge to educate others about our unequal
world and to help those in need. Amen.

Or write or say your own prayer for Psyche Mae and
her community.



Catholic Social Teaching Principles: The Common Good

We believe in working towards what is good for
everyone, not just what is good for ourselves.
Discuss:

1. How is Psyche Mae working for the common good?
2. How does your support of Caritas Australia work
towards the common good?

LEARNING TASKS

INQUIRY TOPIC: A JUST FUTURE STARTS WITH OPPORTUNITY



Watch a short film which shares
some of Psyche Mae's story.



Task 1: Story Study

English, ACELY1692, Civics and Citizenship, ACHASSK072,
ACHASSK093.

Read Psyche Mae's story and discuss:

1. Where does Psyche Mae live?
2. What made life hard for Psyche Mae when she was
a child?
3. What helped make things better for Psyche Mae and
her family?
4. How did Caritas Australia help?
5. How does Psyche Mae participate and contribute to
her community?
6. How can you/your class support Caritas Australia?



Task 2: Photo comprehension

English ACELY1680, ACELY1692.

1. What can you see in the picture?
2. Where do you think the picture was taken?
3. How do you think the people are feeling?
4. How can you tell?
5. What would you like to ask them?
6. What do you think will happen next?



Task 3: Country Study- the Philippines

Geography, ACHASSK067, ACHASSK069.

Search the tags in the Interactive Student Workbook to find the following information about the Philippines:

1. Population.
2. % of the population living on less than \$1.90 a day.
3. Official languages.
4. Main religion.
5. Climate.
6. Locate the Philippines on a world map. What direction
is the Philippines from Australia?
7. Research some of the reasons for poverty and
inequality in Philippines.

CaseStudy: Psyche-Mae, Mozambique

Upper Primary (Y5-6)



"I decided to work with women and children because I'm wearing their shoes, I feel what they feel."

–Psyche Mae

Caritas Australia first shared Psyche Mae's story 10 years ago. This story revisits how things have changed for Psyche Mae and her family after joining a Caritas Australia supported program in the Philippines.

When Psyche Mae was a young child, the only place her parents could find for them to live was on the edge of a rubbish tip close to a big city called Manila, in the Philippines.

Psyche Mae's mother made things out of rubbish to sell at the market to make money for food. Her father worked when he could. When school fees needed to be paid or someone got sick they had to borrow from moneylenders at very high interest rates.

In the Philippines, about 22 million people live below the poverty line. Psyche Mae's family formed part of an extensive, urban poor community, where hundreds of thousands of people struggle to survive.

Life changed for the better when Psyche Mae's family joined an Integrated Community Development program run by Caritas Australia's partner, the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Psyche Mae's mother learnt how to make bags to sell. Other people learnt to make cards and cook food to sell. Members of the program run a small community shop and a savings credit group.

Life improved for Psyche Mae's family and she and her brothers and sister have been able to go to school.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and the support of Caritas Australia through Project Compassion, FCJ's program helps people to learn job and income-generating skills, encourages education, addresses health issues and supports programs that enable members to save money and take out small, low interest loans through its saving and loans scheme. It's estimated around 5000 people are assisted directly or indirectly by this integrated program.

Fast forward to 2018 – Psyche Mae's mother is a full-time sewer working from home and her father works with the House Repair program run by FCJ. With their jobs and the help of a community savings plan – Psyche Mae's entire family have managed to lift themselves out of poverty and build a just future.

"When my mother was able to earn from her renewed skills, she was also able to share her skills and knowledge with others and that helped her gain self-esteem and confidence," Psyche Mae says.

"Her earnings helped her to have more financial freedom and assist with our daily needs, instead of merely depending on the income of my father."

Psyche Mae says that their better financial position means that her mother can now afford to pay attention to her health which can be costly for poor families.

Psyche Mae herself is now a qualified social worker for the Philippines

Government, helping informal settlers, particularly women. She is a hard worker, working full-time and studying after work at university, where she plans to continue on to study a Master's degree.

Psyche Mae says. "If FCJ's Integrated Community Development Program was never around, maybe we would all still be living in poverty."

"Life is not easy. We work so hard in order to survive daily living but we do believe that education is something to be prioritised," Psyche Mae says.

"We see to it that we do well in school, because it is the only thing that we can give back to our parents. We do so, despite the fact that we have to walk for an hour in order to reach our schools."

Psyche Mae wants to further her education so that she can use her knowledge to provide the best support and aid to those in need.

"It was always my dream to have a healthy environment where dwellers have positive relationships, families are strengthened and have access to permanent employment, livelihood and other social services. And women and children and vulnerable sectors are protected."

- Psyche Mae

When you support Caritas Australia, funds help out with housing, education and medical needs, maintain health and wellbeing and work towards eradicating poverty...providing a just future for others like her.

"I would like to thank you for supporting Caritas Australia. It's because of you that the FCJ are able to provide beneficial programs. Please continue to support Caritas Australia and God bless," she says.

Psyche Mae received life-saving support because of people like you.

Her just future has started with opportunity

A just future starts with all of us!

Classroom Activities (Y5-6)



FIND THE INTERACTIVE STUDENT WORKBOOK AT

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1129993426599673857>
(Click 'Refresh' if the hot spot icons don't display correctly.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Prayer

Loving God,
You have given us the gift of education.
Help us to use our knowledge to educate
others about our unequal world and to
help those in need. Amen.

Or write or say your own prayer for
Psyche Mae and her community.



Reflect:

*"Be demanding of the world
around you; be demanding first
of all with yourselves. Be
children of God; take pride in
it!"*

– Pope St John Paul II

- What do you think Pope St John Paul II meant when he asked us to be demanding of the world around us and of ourselves?
- What should we demand and why? (justice, equality, empathy, compassion etc.?)
- How do you take pride in being a child of God?



Catholic Social Teaching Principles: The Common Good

*We believe in working towards what is
good for everyone, not just what is good for
ourselves.*

Discuss:

- How is Psyche Mae working for the common good?
- How does your support of Caritas Australia work towards the common good?
- Complete the CST worksheet (p.10)

LEARNING TASKS

INQUIRY TOPIC: A JUST FUTURE STARTS WITH OPPORTUNITY



Watch a short film which
shares some of Psyche Mae's
story.



Task 1: Story Study

ACELY1703, ACELY1701, ACELY1713.

Part A: Read and watch Psyche Mae's story and discuss:

1. Where does Psyche Mae live?
2. What made life hard for Psyche Mae when she was a child?
3. What helped make things better for Psyche Mae and her family?
4. How did Caritas Australia help?
5. How does Psyche Mae participate and contribute to her community?
6. Summarise Psyche Mae's story in 4 sentences.
7. Explain how the features of Psyche Mae's story urge us to action.
8. How can you/your class support Caritas Australia?



Task 2: Photo comprehension

ACELY1703, ACELY1701, ACELY1713.

1. What can you see in the picture?
2. Where do you think the picture was taken?
3. How do you think the people are feeling?
4. How can you tell?
5. What would you like to ask them?
6. What do you think will happen next?



Task3: Country Study- the Philippines

HASS - ACHASS123, Geography- ACHASSK138,
ACHASSK139.

Search for the tags in this Interactive Student Workbook (or do your own research) to find the following facts about the Philippines:

- population,
- % living on less than \$1.90 a day,
- official languages,
- main religion,
- climate,
- some reasons why poverty and inequality in the Philippines.

Use geographical tools (for example, a
globe wall map or digital application
such as Google Earth) to answer the
following:

- Location of the Philippines in relation to Australia.
- Using the geographical division of Asia, is the Philippines in North-Asia, South- East Asia, South Asia or West Asia (Middle East)?
- Capital city of the Philippines.
- All surrounding countries and their direction from the Philippines.



Task 4: Class Debate

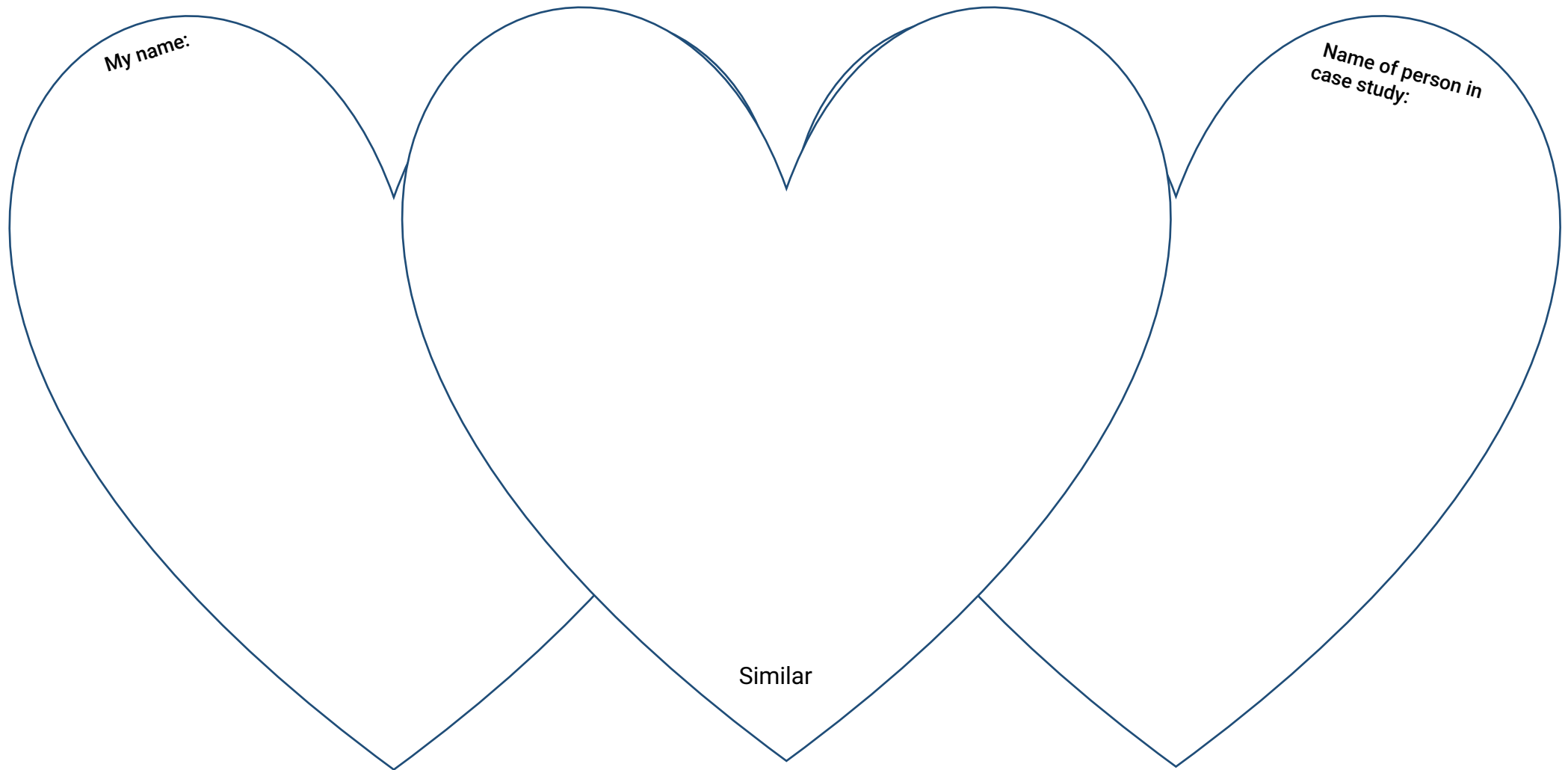
English Y6, ACELY1816, HASS Y6 ACHASS

*"A just future starts with
opportunity."*

Venn Diagram

A heart shape is chosen because Caritas is a Latin word meaning love and compassion.

How are you and the person in the case study similar and different?



I can help others too!

Psyche Mae is using her education to help other families who are less fortunate.

What are you learning at school that will help you help others? Finish the sentences below.



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At school I am learning to_____



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This will help me help others by

Draw a picture of yourself helping others.

Catholic Social Teaching in Action!

Caritas Australia is a Catholic, non-Government, aid and development organisation and is guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Can you find evidence of these principles in Psyche Mae's story?

TASK: Identify where you can see Catholic Social Teaching in action in the case study.

Human Dignity (Respect that everyone is special)	
Common Good (What is best for everyone)	
Solidarity (Working together as one family)	
Subsidiarity (All people have a say)	
Participation (Join in and contribute to the community)	
Preferential Option for the Poor (Some people need extra help)	