

## *First Day School Plan on: Speaking Truth to Power*

(A great lesson for Arbor Day in late April or when you can plant seedlings in your area)

*Spiritual Reflection:* Friends are called to walk gently on the earth, being mindful that we are to protect the world's resources by living simply. (adapted from Faith & Practice pg. 81 Phila. Yearly Meeting)

“We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own – indeed, to embrace the whole creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder.” Wangari Maathai in her Nobel Peace Prize, 2004 acceptance speech.

*Songs:* #1 All Things Bright and Beautiful, #306 A Place in the Choir.  
#312 The Earth is My Mother #322 The Peace Round

*Story: Wangari's Trees of Peace (A True Story from Africa) by Jeanette Winter*

*Opening:* Our story is about a young woman who loves nature. She left her native country to go to school. When she returns to Kenya she sees that most of the trees have been cut down. This is her story about how she plants the trees to make her country beautiful again, even though some people tried to stop her.

### *Wondering Questions:*

1. I wonder how we know Wangari is brave?
2. I wonder what you would do to protect the beautiful trees in your area?
3. I wonder what part of the story is the most important?
4. I wonder where you are in the story or what part of the story is about you?

***Activity:*** Illustrate your favorite part of the story. OR

Teacher directed: Plant small trees or other plants to make your Meeting House or home more environmentally friendly.

***Materials:*** paper and various art supplies. Small seedlings or other plants, paper cups, soil, shovels or scoops, watering cans.

***Notes to Parents:*** Today we read a story about Wangari Maathai, the first woman from East Africa to earn a PhD. She also won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for the creation of the Green Belt Movement, which has spread far beyond the African Continent.