

## **How Can The Future Be a Success? A Handbook for the Future**

### **Children telling children about people who give us hope for a successful future**

We invite you and your group of children to join us when we write a handbook for the future together.

The Bücherpiraten (Book Pirates) are a small NPO. We want every child to find their way into the world of stories.

That's why we started the project "1001 Languages on [www.bilingual-picturebooks.org](http://www.bilingual-picturebooks.org)". On the website, groups of children can publish their jointly written picture books. A network of over 200 volunteers translates the books into over 70 languages. Every family, school or library in the world can download the books for free in thousands of language combinations.

Three years ago we asked children what questions they had about the future. Children from all over the world sent us their questions. They were questions related to the 17 goals of the 2030 UN Agenda. The picture book "[How Does the Future Actually Come About?](#)" was created on the basis of these questions the children sent in. The book is now available in over 60 languages.

In 2021, we are now looking for answers to the question "How can the future be a success?" so that we can turn it into one or more books. To do this, we are collecting portraits of people or groups of people who are changing concrete things for the better in their local area. We are not looking for spectacular heroes and heroines who are in the public eye. We are looking for people who simply start and show others that it can be done.

We are all constantly hearing stories of disaster and hopelessness. With this collection we want to tell people about the hope for a successful future. Because it is only by hoping the future will be a success that it can be one.

It is important to us that all children can be authors in their own right and get a chance to have their say. This is the only way we can all listen to and learn from one another. We hope that these portraits of people and their commitment convey the feeling that we are not alone and that everyone can help shaping things.

That's why we have told the children a little story about magic glasses. You can find the story at the end of the document.



### **What does a finished picture book look like at the end?**

Each person will be depicted along with their efforts over three pages. We are planning several books for the portraits that groups of children send us. The pictures will be drawn by the children and young people at the Bücherpiraten house and by any groups of children who would like to do so. We don't know how many submissions we will receive. It may be that we will have to bundle submissions together or shorten them thematically. We cannot guarantee that everything in the books will be published. But we do know that whatever we are sent is an inspiration and will be seen.

### **Who can take part?**

Any group of children or adolescents can take part. The book is aimed at children up to the age of 12. Therefore it would be a good idea if the children asking are up to 12 years old. They should not be older than 17.

### **What should be included in the children's text?**

The children should introduce the person or group in one or two sentences, with their name and what they do. The children should then do a short interview with the person. They should ask these questions:

- What are you doing so that the future can be a success?
- How does it feel?
- What do you want to pass on to others?

### **How long should the text be and what else should you look out for?**

The answers to the questions should be no longer than approximately 120 words.

The book is aimed at children up to the age of 12. Therefore, please make sure that the texts are written in such a way that they can be read out loud. Even unpracticed children should be able to read the text. Above all, please avoid long, complicated sentences and specialist vocabulary.

### **Photos and pictures would be great**

Children and young people will be creating illustrations for the texts. So it would be great if the children could send us some pictures or photos. These pictures can then serve as inspiration for the other children.

### **Apart from that, we also need:**

We need the names of the children and the person being introduced. We need to know if we can mention their names.

### **Does your group of children want to illustrate some of the portraits?**

If your group of children would also like to create pictures for the books about a successful future - maybe even for texts written by completely different groups - we would be very happy for them to do so. It is not obligatory. Do just let us know.



## Deadlines

We will be collecting the good ideas until **November 30<sup>th</sup> 2021**.

If you want to take part, but the schedule is too tight, don't hesitate to write to us. Please send any submissions or questions to [c.sturm@buecherpiraten.de](mailto:c.sturm@buecherpiraten.de)

If you know other people working with groups of children, we would be happy for you to forward this document to them.

## Here's everything you need to know at a glance:

- We want to put together a handbook for the future
- Children's and youth groups around the world are invited to take part
- The book is aimed at children up to the age of 12.
- Ideally, children up to the age of 12 can take part. They shouldn't be older than 17.
- The children's groups should look for people or groups of people who are changing concrete things for the better in their local area.

If the children would like to join in, please send us:

- A sentence or two about who the person is and what they are doing.
- The children should ask three questions:
  - What are you doing so that the future can be a success?
  - How does it feel?
  - What would you like to pass on to others?
- Each answer should be no longer than approx. 120 words.
- The texts should be written in a language suitable for children
- Pictures or photos to help the children doing the illustrations in the picture books.

Apart from that, we still need

- The names of the children and the person/group being introduced. We need to know if we can mention their names.
- If your group of children would like to illustrate texts (from other groups), please write to us.
- We will be collecting the portraits until **November 30<sup>th</sup> 2021**.

Please send your questions and texts to [c.sturm@buecherpiraten.de](mailto:c.sturm@buecherpiraten.de)



## Here is the story for the children:

### An Invitation

I found something recently. It was a pair of glasses. On the glasses hung a note that said: "Magic Glasses". In small letters underneath it said: "Do you have problems recognizing the magic of success? Put on the glasses and suddenly you won't see what's going wrong anymore. You'll see how it can go right."

I put the glasses on. The world looked the same as always. But when I gave it to the adults, they were completely astonished: "I've never seen the world like this! There are opportunities to do something different!"

Since then I have been collecting a treasure trove of ideas that can be seen through the glasses. Do you know people locally who can see these opportunities without glasses and have simply started on them?

I cordially invite you to ask these people three questions:

- What are you doing so that the future can be a success?
- How does it feel?
- What do you want to pass on to others?

I'll send you a picture of the magic glasses. You will certainly be able to find these people with them. There will be a lot of things going right around them.

