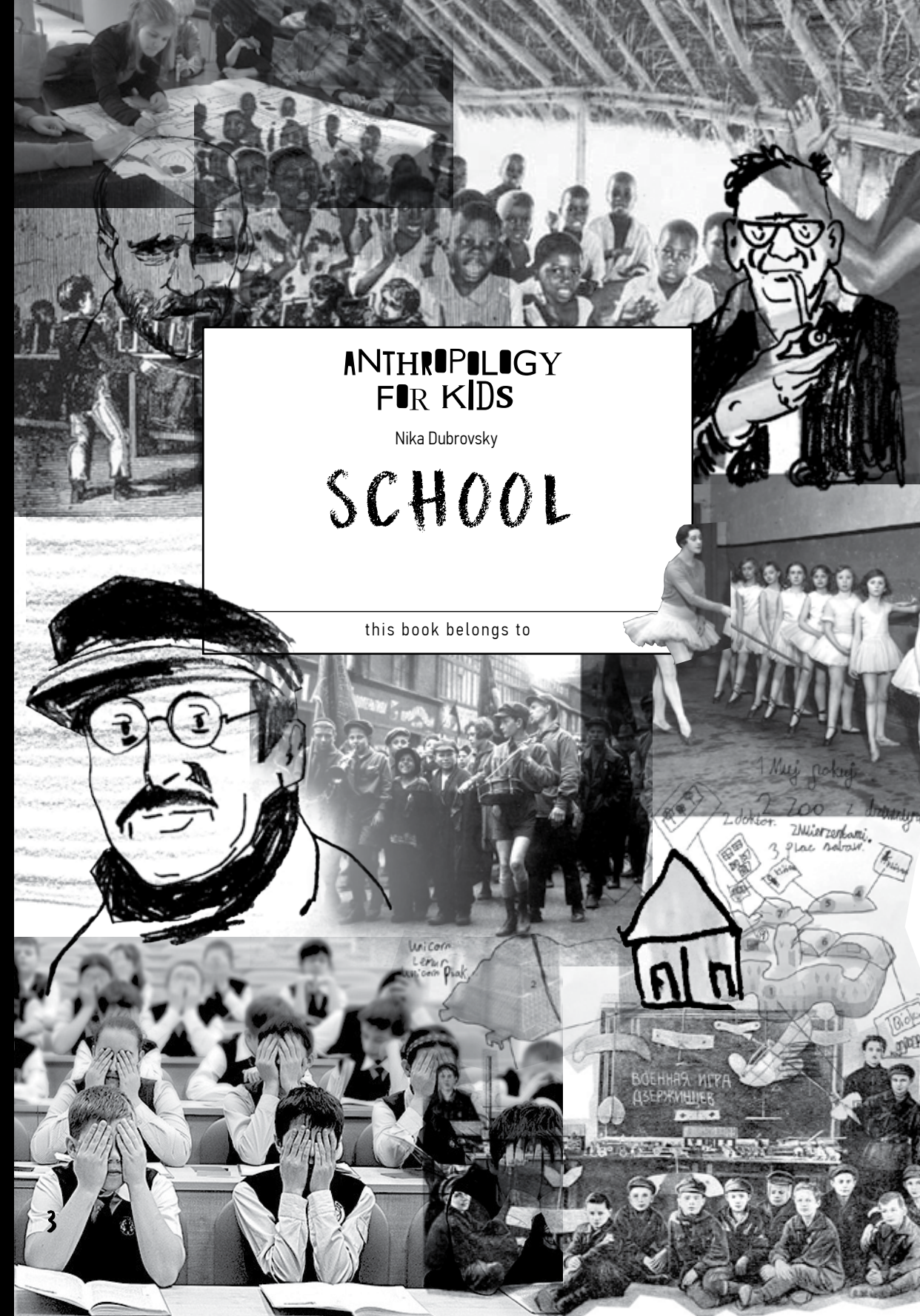




SCHOOL

Nika Dubrovsky

a4teens



ANTHROPOLOGY
FOR KIDS

Nika Dubrovsky

SCHOOL

this book belongs to

12+

ANTHROPOLOGY FOR KIDS

SCHOOL AS

this book belongs to

Many thanks to all who contributed to the creation of this book:

Lyudmila Ivakina, Elena Shindykova, Alla Mitrofanova, Yakov Lurye, Natalya Dziadko, Barbara Andersen, David Greber, Alexandra Pomarino, David Gribble, Jerry Gold, Elena Larskaya, Ella Nilova, Amukta Mahapatra, Hanna Lentz, Benjmain Bush, Vera Kravchuk, Sam Chermoeff, Zuzanna Tabakova, Henry ReadHead, Alexandra Orlova, Dana Daymand, Irina Solomatina, and many others.

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Populare education book
FROM THE SERIAS OF «A4TEENS»

Nika Dubrovsky

What is school? — [A4teens/A4kids]. — ISBN 978-3-948142-94-00.

This book has been made for children and their parents, for students and teachers, for grandparents and for all those who would like to think about what is “school”, what it has been in the past and what may it be in the future.

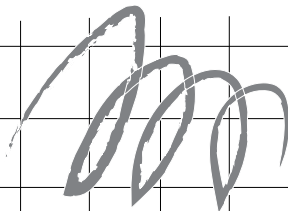
© Nika Dubrovsky, text, layout, 2019

THIS BOOK IS A COLLECTION OF
DIFFERENT STORIES ABOUT PAST AND
FUTURE OF SCHOOLING.

Ways of teaching varied greatly from epoch to epoch and from one culture to another. Many wonderful books describe it, but our book isn’t an encyclopedia, but rather a conversation.

Today we often hear people talking about the future of education. Many say it will look different than ours. Scholars and artists, politicians and bureaucrats all predict their versions of future schooling, but I wanted to ask children themselves what they think.

This book consists of three parts.
The first and smallest section is devoted to the schools of different countries, now and in the past.
The second section comes from me retelling the stories invented by kids who shared with me their dreams and fears about schools. I collected their stories in different countries: Germany, Russia, USA, Iceland, and Cuba. I noticed kids prefer to comment on the ideas, plans, and drawings made by other kids rather than by adults.
That’s why after the section with kids stories, to be inspired by or to be argued with the largest part of the book is free space for the readers.

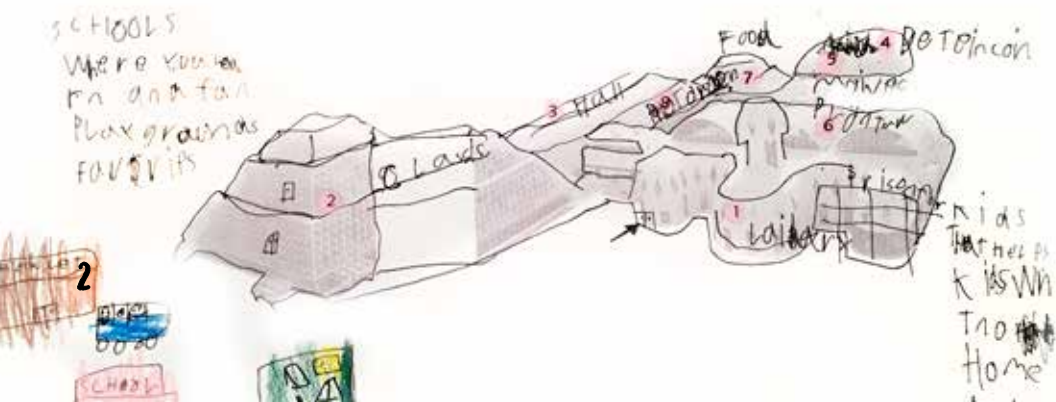


CONTENTS

SCHOOL AS A FANTASY

Let's think together about imaginary schools. What if we have no limits other than the boundaries of our fantasy? Here are the ideas of different kids from different countries around the world. Write yours as comments or as something entirely new.

Draw school you can imagine



SPORTS SCHOOL

SCHOOL FOR BOSSES

SCHOOL OF SPACE TRAVEL

SCHOOLING WITH PETS

SCHOOL "everybody is

aFOREIGNER"

SPY SCHOOL

MAPLE SYRUP CULT

SCHOOL OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS

SOLDIER SCHOOL

SCHOOL FOR NOBLE MAIDENS

SCHOOL for MAGICians

ISLAND ART SCHOOL

#1

SCHOOL AS A COMMUNE

Makarenko was an educator who took juvenile criminals into his commune-school

#2

SCHOOL OF HAPPINESS

In 1921 A.S. Neil opened a school in Suffolk, England and named it "Summerhill". The founding tenet was that each child may have the right to decide with whom, when and what she or he shall learn.

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SCHOOL AS RESPECT

"Changing the world - Means changing education"

#4

SCHOOL AS FACTORY

Students are row material, consumables and components for the product for which there is a demand in society

#5

SCHOOL AS AN EQUALITY

In poor areas of India, many children didn't finish school. reform has changed the situation

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Soviet baley schools remind me the military settlement from the times of the roman empire

#7

SCHOOL RUN BY CHILDREN

The Governor of São Paulo decided to close lots of schools and fire the teachers from their jobs

#8

SCHOOL AS A PRISON

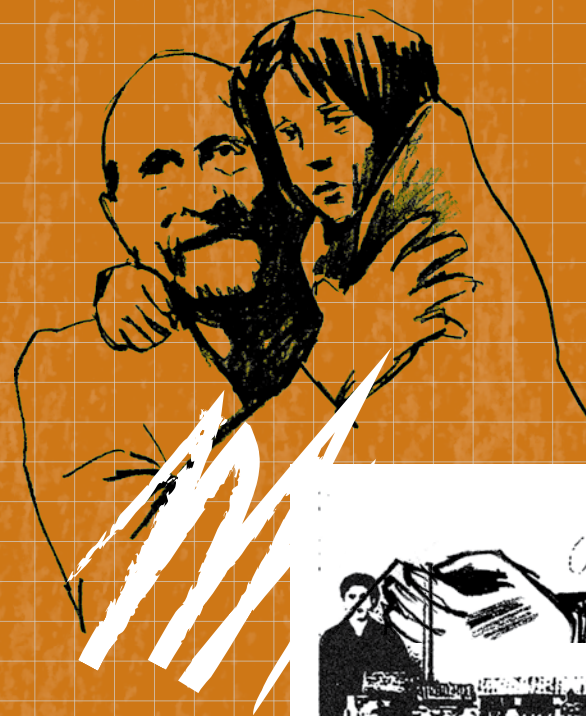
In most countries, minors cannot go to prison, but in some, the age of criminal responsibility starts at 11 years old

#9

SCHOOL AS IMMIGRATION

Children of the northern nations in the USSR often were forced to go to boarding schools. Today, people mostly want for their children to have a modern education.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOLS:



#1

SCHOOL AS A COMMUNE

MAKARENKO WAS AN EDUCATOR WHO TOOK
JUVENILE CRIMINALS INTO HIS COMMUNE-SCHOOL

MA

He believed that all children are born inherently kind, caring and creative, but they could be transform into violent and dangerous criminals in a negative social environment or not.

What do you think?



Anton Makarenko

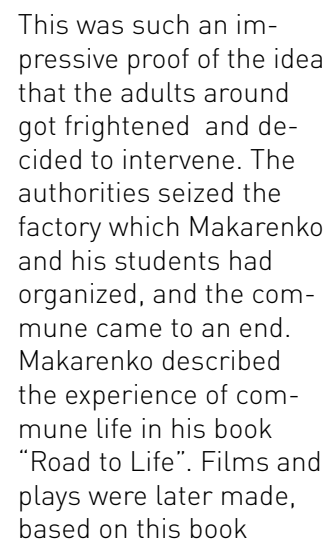
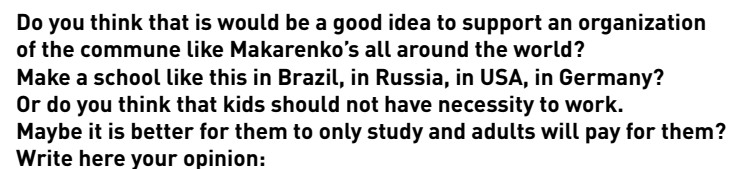
THERE ARE NO BAD CHILDREN –
ONLY BAD ADULTS.

Makarenko founded his commune after the Revolution and Civil War, when the streets were filled with millions of homeless and abandoned children, many of whom formed into gangs. Apart from prisons for juvenile offenders in the USSR, the death penalty was possible for children over 12 years of age.

The commune's educational experiment confirmed Makarenko's views: placed in a situation where they were given both freedom and responsibility, the former juvenile offenders built a successful and happy life together. The Commune organized the production of photo-cameras, and used the money they earned to pay for the children's studies, travels and improvement of their living conditions.

MA

Would you agree to live with children who were criminals?
Do you think people change?
If someone has already stolen or even killed, can you trust such a person, even if this person is a child?

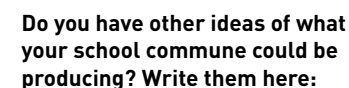
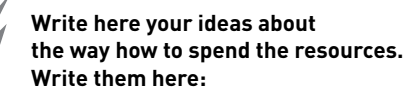


**What would you like
your commune to produce?**

- ☐ 3D printers
- ☐ Virtual currencies [cryptocurrencies]
- ☐ Have the whole team employed by a large company for an hourly wage
- ☐ Produce your own newspaper / computer game / TV show /channel
- ☐ Refuse to work entirely and demand funding from your parents or guardians on the grounds that they are obliged to pay for your happy childhood.

How will you spend your earnings:

- ☐ Travel. like how about make a trip around the world with everybody from the school: teachers and students.
- ☐ Improvement of the commune (interiors, gyms, school zoo or aquarium, teaching students individual subjects)/ help the people who live around you
- ☐ Spend on education. Maybe students would like to study music or dance or foreign languages? Maybe they want to invite famous professors to teach them from far away?

[illegible]

The image shows four sets of horizontal lines, each consisting of a top wavy line and a bottom straight line, providing a template for handwriting practice.

#2

SCHOOL OF HAPPINES

IN 1921 A.S. NEIL OPENED A SCHOOL IN SUFFOLK, ENGLAND AND NAMED IT "SUMMERHILL". THE FOUNDING TENET WAS THAT EACH CHILD MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WITH WHOM, WHEN AND WHAT SHE OR HE SHALL LEARN.



In 1921 A.S. Neil opened a school in Suffolk, England and named it "Summerhill". The founding tenet was that each child may have the right to decide with whom, when and what she or he shall learn.



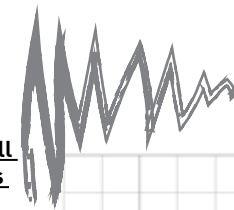
Summerhill is first and foremost a democratic school. How much do you value the right to choose what you do and when? How does it happen in your school? Have you ever been part of a democratic project?



A.S. Neil

I WOULD RATHER
SUMMER HILL
PRODUCE A HAPPY STREET
SWEEPER
THAN A NEUROTIC
PRIME MINISTER.

If A.S. Neil is correct and "All crimes, all hatreds, all wars can be reduced to unhappiness", a happy childhood is important not only for the child, but for the whole of society. Miserable children grow up to become disruptive adults.



It would seem that, given all this freedom, children would stop learning completely. Instead, that they should be sleeping, playing, or plowing through candy all day long. More than 90 years of experience, however, has proven to be the furthest from the truth; children learn and grow to be healthy and happy, and graduates mature to be renowned and successful scientists, writers and politicians.

Some regard Summerhill as a society without order, rules or regulations; a petri dish for breeding rebellious and lethargic children. But the reality is the polar opposite; Summerhill allows students to thrive, where traditional schools govern by, essentially, one principle: "Listen to your elders."

In Summerhill, rules are constantly being discussed, changed and created. Eventually, there ends up being a thick book; one that needs to be studied and understood. It is expected from students that they not only know the rules, but that they actively discuss, change and create them.



Yuval Harari

YUVAL HARARI, HISTORIAN AND WRITER, BELIEVES THAT THE BIGGEST DISTINCTION BETWEEN HUMANS AND ANIMALS IS NOT MERELY THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SUFFER AND EMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS, NEITHER THE FACT THAT WE HAVE EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND INTRICATE SOCIAL STRUCTURES.

Handwriting practice lines on page 12.

Bees or ants, Harari argues, do not have a social structure any less complex than our own. The social construction within a hive, for instance, is overwhelmingly complex. There is a division of labor, care for offspring, and even agriculture.

"IMAGINE A SOCIETY OF BEES", INVITES HARARI, "THAT ORGANIZES A REVOLUTION, BEHEADS THE QUEEN, OR FREES THE SLAVES"

The pivotal distinction between us and animals lies in our ability to invent stories, to communicate them, and to change societal rules when we wish. Ants, bees, wolves, or monkeys would all need many years of evolution to change their social systems.

Despite all this, to simply agree and change social rules is anything but a simple task.

The very capacity to talk and to come to an agreement is a very complex task. In Summerhill, students meet weekly to create, abolish, and challenge rules; and to resolve or mitigate conflicts and problems that occurred throughout the week.



Imagine that you are organizing a school assembly. Suggest questions for discussion.

Handwriting practice lines on page 13.



How would you distribute power?

- Give a vote to everyone present
Distribute votes amongst the most prominent members of the community (chosen representatives, teachers, older students)
Give the principal full power



What kind of new rules would you suggest?

Handwriting practice lines on page 13.

SCHOOL AS RESPECT

"CHANGING THE WORLD -
MEANS CHANGING EDUCATION"

During the Nazi occupation of Poland, children from the Jewish orphanage were evicted to a Warsaw ghetto. Being a famous Polish writer, Korczak could have held on to his life and freedom, but he chose to stay with the children.



He organized a youth theater in the ghetto, looked after the malnourished children, soothed them as best he could. Even when given the chance to escape right before the entrance to the gas chamber, Korczak chose not to leave the frightened children and thus shared their fate. The utopia of Korczak's orphanage ended tragically. Books, memoirs and photos remain.

There may not have been abundance or excessive attention/excess in Janusz Korczak's orphanage for Jewish children, but there was friendship and a feeling of community based on respect.



Janusz Korczak was a writer and orphanage director

The children's main reproach of Korczak was: "Doctor, you raised us in a kind of fairy tale – in a world that doesn't exist beyond the doors of our Children's Home. And we came out completely unprepared for this world – evil, merciless, unforgiving."

IF “REAL LIFE” IS CRUEL AND UNFAIR, HOW CAN CHILDREN BE TAUGHT TO STAND UP TO IT?

KORCZAK ALWAYS
TALKED ABOUT JUSTICE,
AND NEVER ABOUT
PUNISHMENT.

Doctors know that not every disease demands immediate treatment. Often it makes sense to observe the patient for a while, give the body a chance to cope on its own. Korczak applied the same principle of slowing down to resolve conflicts.



How can conflicts in the community be resolved so that no one feels upset or ignored, and everyone lives in peace and harmony? Janusz Korczak was a doctor and, like any doctor, he had a briefcase with tools and instruments. While working in the orphanage, Janusz invented a whole set of social tools for resolving disputes and conflicts.

In his orphanage a large blackboard hung where everyone could see, anyone who wished could write on it if they had suffered some injustice. Any member of the community could offer to help resolve or “mediate” the dispute. If the quarrel was not settled between friends, then the “case” was referred to the “court”, where all members of the community would take part in restoring Justice.

In the judicial code of Janusz Korczak’s orphanage, 90 of the first 100 points offered to forgive the wrongdoer for various reasons:

- maybe he didn’t mean it?
- maybe he or she was misunderstood?
- maybe it was just a bad joke?

and only at the very end of the list, if it became clear that it was not a joke, and really something unforgivable, only then, having tried all avenues of forgiveness, the most severe punishment could be pronounced – exclusion from the community...



Janusz Korczak

THE COURT IS NOT
JUSTICE, BUT IT SHOULD
STRIVE FOR JUSTICE.

What punishments would be in your children’s court? Describe the most severe and most slight/delicate punishment.

What misbehaviour would your school consider insignificant? And give examples of misconduct which would bear grave consequences.

#4

SCHOOL AS FACTORY

STUDENTS ARE ONLY THE MATERIAL, CONSUMABLES AND COMPONENTS FOR THE PRODUCT FOR WHICH THERE IS A DEMAND IN SOCIETY.



"Studying in schools-factories is similar to the factories themselves - straight-forward and working on the principle of a conveyor. The teacher is rising above the class, standing in front of students, transmits knowledge to them. This method of teaching is most effective when the teacher can see each and every one well, and the classes are standard compartments along one long corridor."

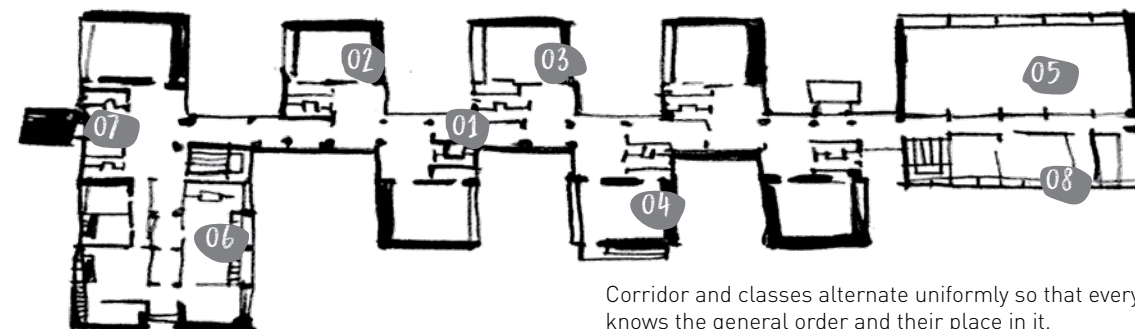
-- "Tackling the Crime of School Design", Rena Upitisy



Ellwood Cubberley

"Place children into an enclosed space called a classroom and process them for the duration of a year. Then conduct standardized tests to make sure that they have learned the necessary curriculum and transfer them to the next processing container. Repeat this cycle until the pupils reach an age at which they can be considered suitable for work."

-- Ellwood Cubberley, 1922, American educator



Corridor and classes alternate uniformly so that everyone knows the general order and their place in it.
1 - corridor; 2, 3, 4 and so on - the class; 5 - assembly room; 6 - toilets and changing rooms; 7 - entrance to the school; 8 - cantina.



Some think that all kids want to learn, and studying is easy, like a fun game. If you agree then why do you think there are some school where kids don't want to study?



Many people are sure that kids wouldn't willingly choose to learn hard and wouldn't study anything if left to their own devices. If you agree describe how you think kids can be made to learn. Invent some new approaches and describe the ones you already know.

You are the author of the national
or even global education plan,
the inventor of the universal standard.
Who is needed in our society and who is not?

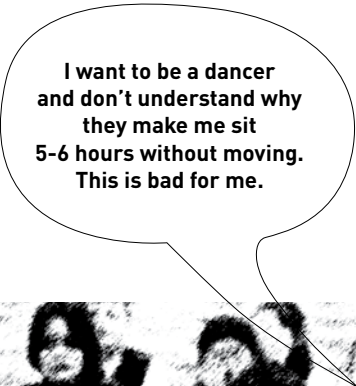
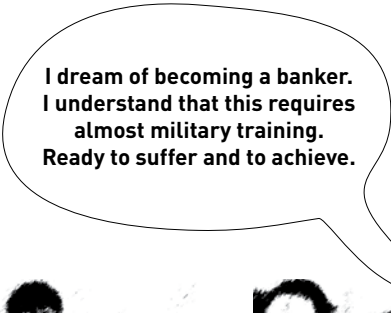
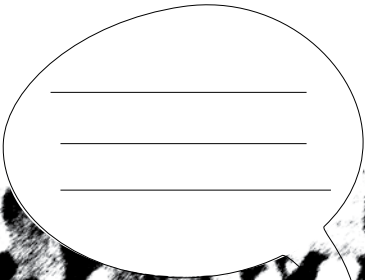
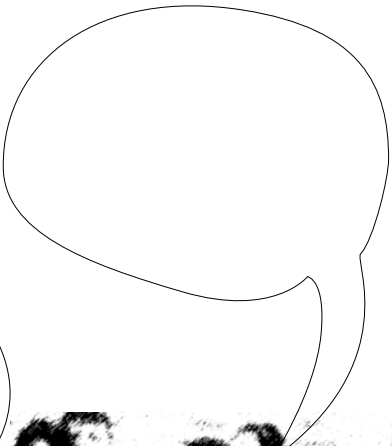
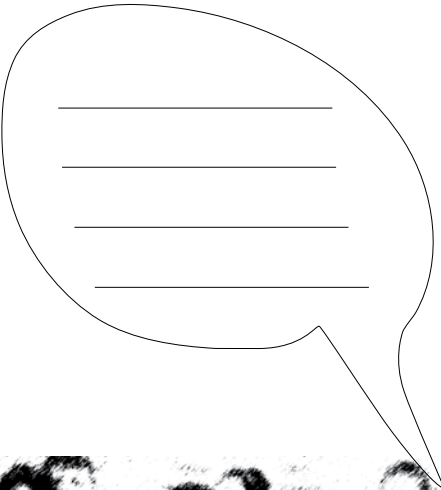
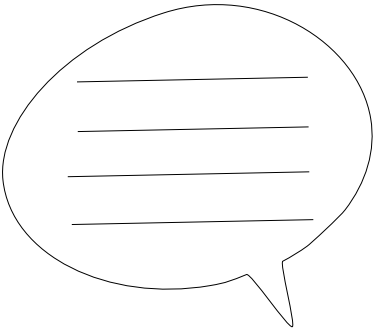
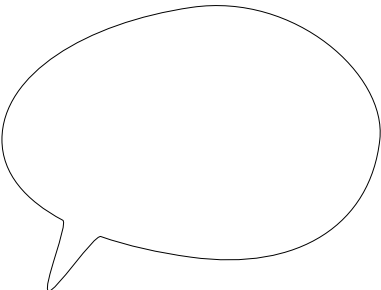
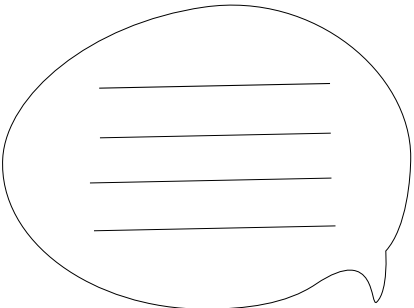


- ☐ Politicians
- ☐ Dancers
- ☐ Biotechnologist
- ☐ Famouse actors and film directors
- ☐ Bankers and financial managers
- ☐ Nannies
- ☐ Teachers
- ☐ Doctors
- ☐ Farmers
- ☐ Scientists
- ☐ Wives, mothers involved in raising children
- ☐ Singers
- ☐ Specialists care for the elderly
- ☐ Robotics
- ☐ Museum workers
- ☐ Astronauts

- ☐ Bloggers and commentators
- ☐ Eternal students
- ☐ Marketers
- ☐ Call Center Employees
- ☐ Immigration workers
- ☐ Border guards
- ☐ Travelers
- ☐ Cultural representatives
- ☐ Diplomats
- ☐ Social workers
- ☐ Directors of international companies
- ☐ Lawyers
- ☐ Cashiers in stores
- ☐ Advertisers
- ☐ Accountants
- ☐ Mathematics
- ☐ Astronomers

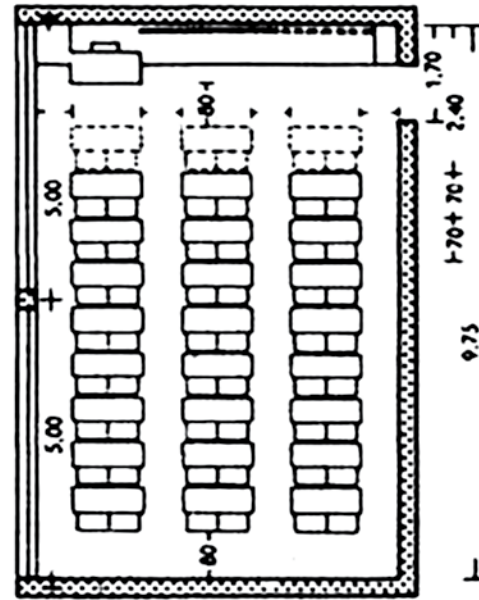
WHAT DO THE PUPILS THEMSELVES
THINK OF THEIR FACTORY SCHOOLS?
WE DON'T KNOW, BUT WE CAN
TRY TO IMAGING!

Write the thoughts of these
children into the bubbles.
Try to make it funny ...



THINK OF YOUR IDEAL CLASSROOM. DO NOT BE SHY, THINK OF SOMETHING UNEXPECTED: CAN THERE BE ZERO GRAVITY IN IT?

What if students are not allowed to sit down, but must continuously dance? Maybe in the classroom should be the kitchen? Could the arrangement of the classroom make learning impossible?



How essential for you the way of how a classroom is arranged? Write down what is right in those classrooms that you have seen and what is wrong. Write the most incredible classroom ideas that can never be realized.

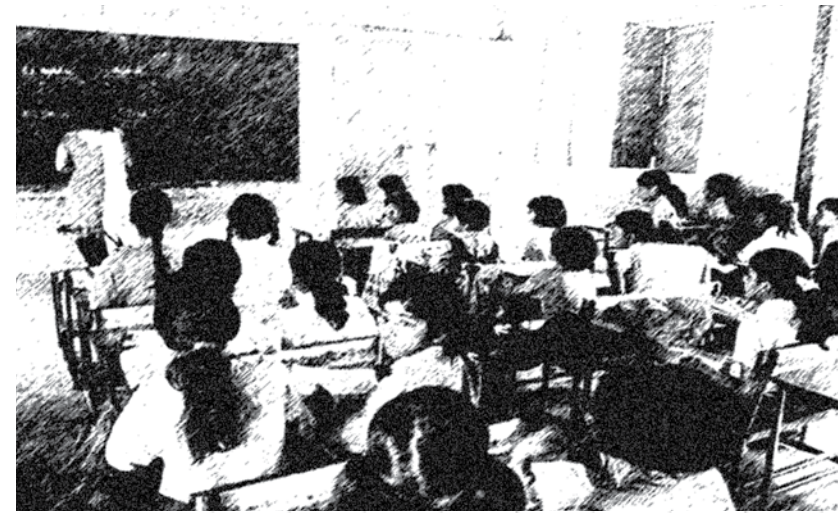
Draw the most disastrous classroom plan you can imagine (don't be afraid to make us all frightened)!

Draw the ideal classroom plan (be bold in your fantasies) here!





One version: The teacher is standing at the blackboard in the forefront of the classroom. Children are seated at desks in rows. They listen to the teacher and do not talk to each other.



an other version: Children are spread out on the floor of the classroom. The teacher walks around and approaches those who need assistance. Children can talk to each other.

#5 SCHOOL AS AN EQUALITY

In poor areas of India, many children leave school at the age of just 8, often still not knowing how to read and write. Their parents work a lot, and they have no time to look after their children, check that they're going to school, and doing their homework. Many parents prefer to have their children help them with work or go out and earn money instead of studying.

The caste system still exists in India. Teachers usually come from higher castes than their students. Recently, an experiment was conducted in which two million children participated. Their schools were transformed: whereas previously children sat at their desks and the teacher stood at the front giving out and checking work, administering punishment and encouragement; under the new system the children would all sit on the floor wherever they liked, and the teacher would walk between helping those who needed help.

Children could choose what they study and when to pass exams. As a result, everyone was happy: the teachers no longer felt like policemen, the children passed exams faster and with better results and almost everyone stayed in school.



Adults are older, more experienced, bigger, physically stronger, and often also come from rich and powerful families, like in India. How can adults and children get equal rights? Should we try to achieve this?

SCHOOL AS

BY CHILDREN

GETTING ADMITTED TO A RUSSIAN BALLET SCHOOL
IS VERY HARD, BUT STUDYING THERE IS EVEN HARDER



Describe the school, in which the task of its students would be to achieve incredible results, and the mission of teachers is to make them overcome any possible obstacles, even if the health or emotional well being is an obstacle.
Will this school be utopian or dystopian?



ex-balerina

I went through hell, but it was also heaven at the same time. When you perform in your favorite ballet, fully in control of your body, it's like you are living a new life – becoming something much bigger than your previous self. Whatever you felt as a little girl doesn't matter anymore, she doesn't even exist, you've become reborn into a completely new and beautiful being.



Describe the school, in which the task of its students would be to achieve incredible results, and the mission of teachers is to make them overcome any possible obstacles, even if the health or emotional well being is an obstacle.
Will this school be utopian or dystopian?



ex-balerina

The social life in school is pretty competitive between students. Everyone wants to become a prima ballerina and get a job in the Bolshoi Theatre, but we know that only one or two will actually make it. Truly horrible things happen sometimes – from poisonings to suicides, gossip and broken glass in your ballet shoes.

Rudeness and disrespect for the pupils is normal. Teachers only care about getting the most out of each student. Health risks and emotional trauma are just considered a natural side effect in reaching the main goal – creating a proper ballerina. Everyone is focused on the final result – the stage and the show, the future of the art of ballet.

SCHOOL RUN BY CHILDREN

THE GOVERNOR OF SÃO PAULO DECIDED TO CLOSE LOTS OF SCHOOLS AND FIRE THE TEACHERS FROM THEIR JOBS



These Brazilian students were inspired by the example of Chilean students in 2011 who organized mass protests and occupations, demanding free public education – a movement known as the “Chilean Winter.” They Skyped with Chilean students, receiving support, encouragement, and tips.

The schools were already overcrowded and did not have enough resources. In response, students occupied more than 200 schools. This went on for more than a year. Students locked the doors of the schools and organized student assemblies, despite threats from the administration, some teachers, and the police. They reached out to the neighborhoods, collecting food and help from parents, some teachers, and other citizens. They rejected government proposals to negotiate individually, saying that the government would have to negotiate with students from all occupied schools at once, or not at all.



Imagine a school without grades, where you will choose the subjects that you want to study. It could be anything: cooking, dancing, reading, or creating computer games.

Write the scedrual for your the school!

MONDAY	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
	6.
TUESDAY	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
	6.
WEDNESDAY	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
	6.

THURSDAY	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
	6.
FRIDAY	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
	6.



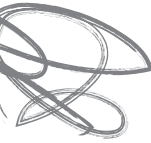
Write a descrbtion of your ideal weekend.

SCHOOL AS A PRISON

IN MOST COUNTRIES, MINORS DON'T GO TO PRISON, BUT IN SOME, THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY STARTS AT 11 YEARS OLD



Describe what kind of punishments you could have for delinquent kids in a school for delinquents.



Should young offenders communicate with the outside world: parents, other "non-delinquent" kids, and how can it be arranged?

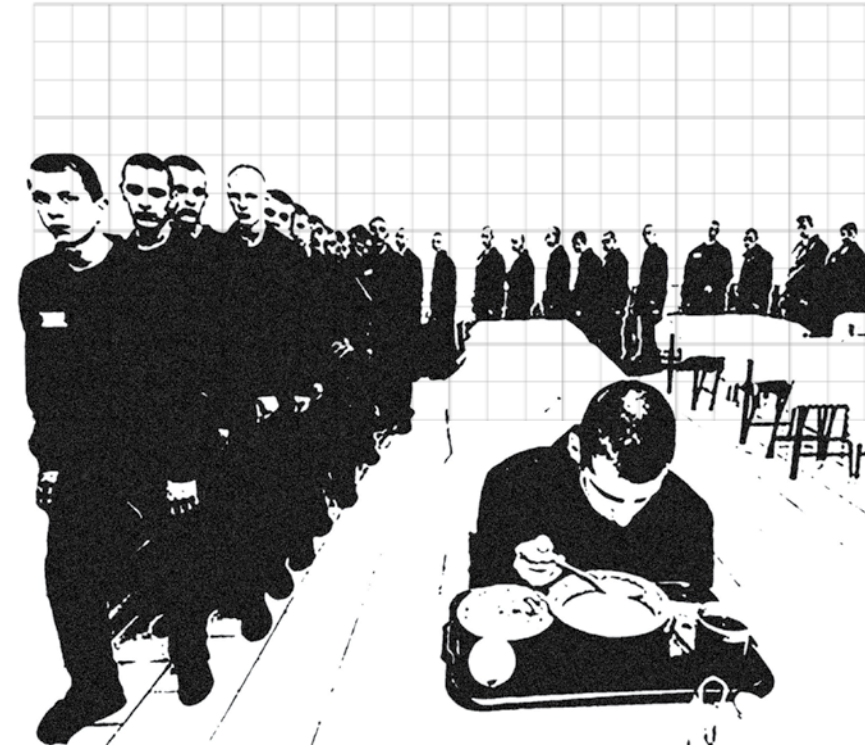


David Gribble

Prisons for kids are absurd and counter-productive. What troubled children need is approval and affection and respect. It has been shown (in Spenser Milham's book on the subject) that it would be cheaper to send every child to travel round the world with a private tutor than to keep him or her in prison.



What lessons would you have in your prison school?



What's your attitude to "criminal" children? What would you teach them? Should they be judged and punished?

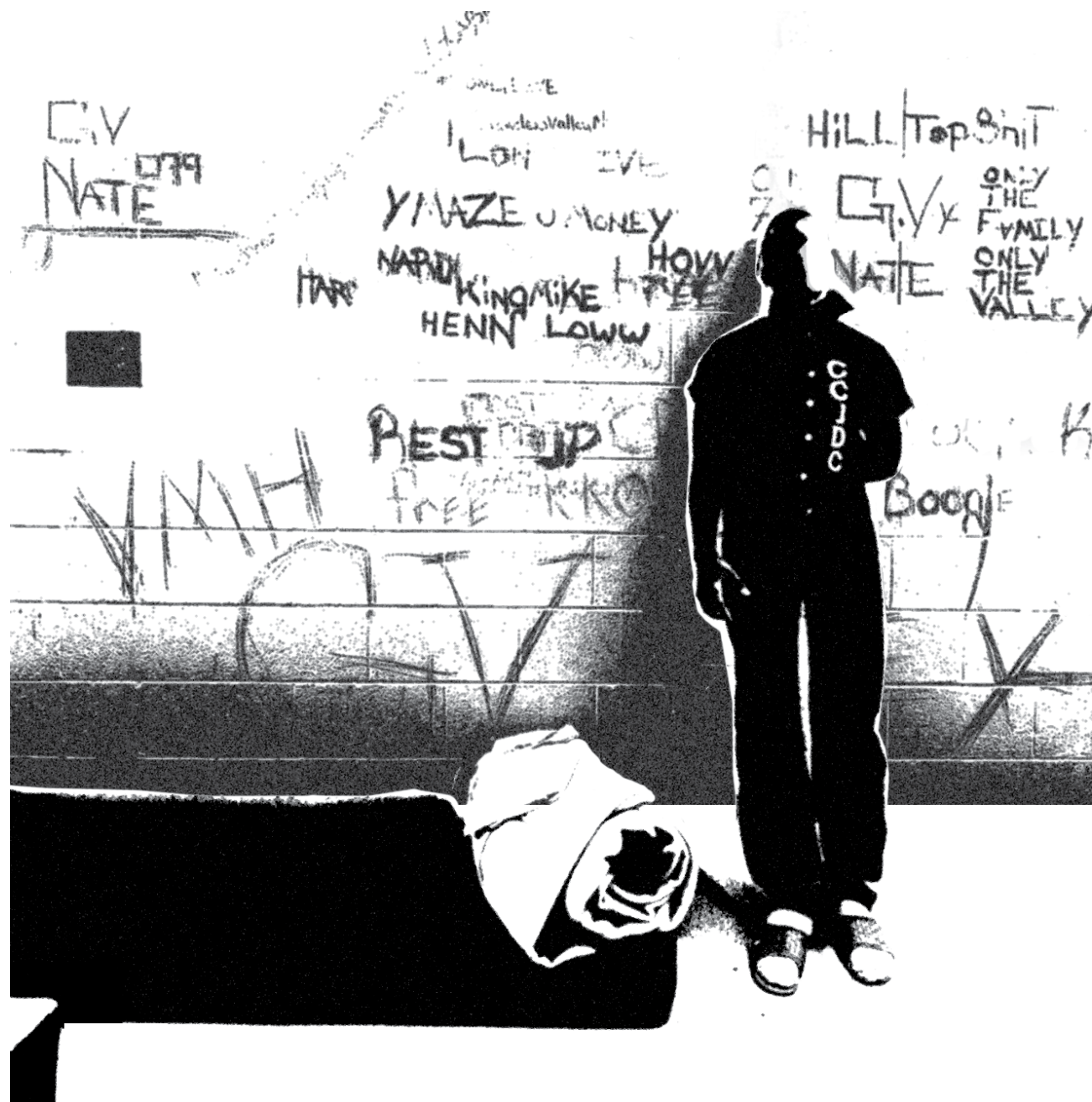


If I were somebody from outside the prison who was invited to work with children in prison, I think there are two things I would like to do to make life better for these kids:

- Listen to them without judging them. They have already been judged. This is why they are in prison. They do not need me to judge them again. By allowing them to talk freely, I would help to relieve the anxiety they live with daily.
- Children want to learn, although they may not be interested in learning what the education system requires them to know. As an outsider, I may be able to teach them things that can enhance the quality of their lives, even though these things fall outside required school curricula. Poetry workshops have been successful with juvenile inmates in the state of Washington, as has learning to play a musical instrument. Theater—acting, directing, etc.—resulting in the production of a play has been popular. The poets who have conducted workshops, the professional musicians who have taught inmates to play musical instruments, and the theater people have all been paid for their efforts through grants awarded by the state.

I would think that art—drawing; painting with watercolors—would also be beneficial to inmates, but I am not aware of visual arts having been taught by outsiders to the prison.

--Jerry Gold



Jerry Gold

THE LARGEST DANGER TO SOCIETY, AND TO THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES, IS THAT THOSE WHO ARE RELEASED FROM PRISON WILL RETURN TO THE SAME SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT THAT GOT THEM IN PRISON IN THE FIRST PLACE. AS MINORS,

#9

SCHOOL AS IMMIGRATION

BOARDING SCHOOLS FOR THE KIDS FROM THE
FAR NORTH OF USSR WERE CREATED IN THE 1920s.
PARENTS DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY CHILDREN SHOULD LEARN.
THEY WERE HIDING THEM AT HOME.

In Soviet Union kids of the Northern nations often were forcibly taken from their homes, sometimes with a policeman. Authorities gathered kids from tundra and taiga to boarding schools. Kids were kept in schools for 10 years. They were allowed to see their families only for the holidays, a couple of months per year.

They dressed kids up in clothes unusual for them, cut their hair, given new names, forced to eat unfamiliar foods and live in different ways than they lived in their families. Children were forbidden to speak their native languages, but they did not understand Russian. Interestingly, all this was done in the name of «saving children» and their «happy childhood.»

A similar policy was pursued with traditional peoples in other Western countries: the Eskimos, Native Americans, and Australian aborigines - all went through a meat grinder of compulsory education, which made it almost impossible to return to their family. During their studies, children often forgot their native language and traditional practices of their people.



Today in Yamal, the far north of the Russian Federation, the grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of those how were taken away to learn by force, are bringing their children voluntarily. The attitude towards education has changed in the last 100 years. Parents believe that school is the only way for their kids to have the future.

Children, of course, are still sad without a family, but the school is not a cultural shock that breaks ordinary life, but a planned stage of maturation through which most of the inhabitants of the Russian North pass.



What about kids that live in places
where no school is possible: in the
tundra, on a spaceship, underwater –
how can they study?

Indigenous people of the far north
of Russia have skills and know many
things that most city-dwellers don't.
Maybe they can have a knowledge
exchange with city kids and teach
each other? How could such a
nomadic school be organized?

It's good when parents and kids
agree on the best way to study.
But what if they disagree, whose opinion
matters – the parents or the kids?

IMAGINARY SCHOOLS

LET'S THINK TOGETHER ABOUT
IMAGINARY SCHOOLS. WHAT IF WE HAVE
NO LIMITS OTHER THAN THE BOUNDARIES
OF OUR FANTASY? HERE ARE THE IDEAS
OF DIFFERENT KIDS FROM DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. WRITE
YOURS AS COMMENTS OR
AS SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW.





Peter decided to invent a school that would be really successful, here's how he sees success:

40





Olga M.

SCHOOL FOR BOSSES

**Olga would like to become a school head-
master when
she grows up.**

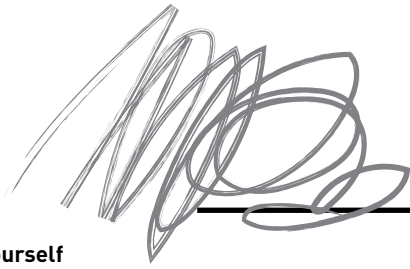
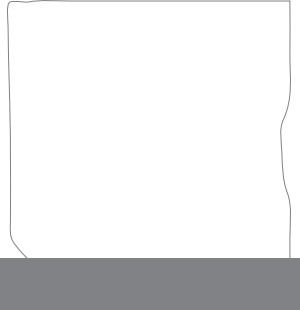
There are more and more bosses in the modern world. Every company and country needs a director or governor. But why does nobody teach kids how to do this job? I want to be very successful and would like to become a boss. I think for this kind of job the most important thing is to understand psychology, rather than being good at math or sports, for example. It is also important to know foreign languages and some general history and culture, because you never know where you will end up living when you grow up. Teachers would treat students with respect in a school like that, because any kid might one day return as the headmaster – you never know.



Draw yourself

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook or ledger page.[illegible]

Draw yourself

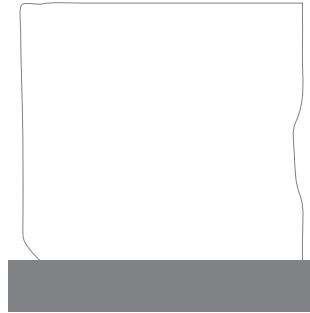


Martin S.

SCHOOL OF SPACE TRAVEL

Martin said his school is both super practical and unbelievable at once. This is the kind of school that will be in demand all over the world in the near future.

It will focus on training future astronauts. When we grow up this will be the most sought-after profession in the world. Because unlike now, we'll all be flying to space on a daily basis. I imagine the astronaut school to be like the Star Trek Academy. Psychology will be a key subject because it's important for everyone to get along with each other when a small group of people lives together in a confined space for a long time. Of course every astronaut should have his own field of scientific expertise, but also know a little bit of everything. My school would be free and accept everyone, but later we can expel those who don't show enough dedication.



Draw yourself

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. A single vertical red margin line runs down the center of the page, creating two equal-width columns. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the entire width and height of the page.

Our school will have plenty of ponds, rivers and reservoirs, as well as: woodland, paths, fields and hillocks. The schoolchildren and their friends will be free to roam where they want and do what they like. They will also be surrounded by birds, fish, giraffes, turtles, cats, dogs, squirrels, rabbits, horses and... (write your own), each student will be assigned an animal to care for, unless of course the animals would prefer to be left alone.

They say that the more animal species become extinct, the more zoos spring up around the world. Do you think that's a good or bad thing, maybe if we humans stopped killing animals we wouldn't need to have zoos at all? And what about our school, will it be like a zoo, a safari park or a new way of living together with animals as equals on a daily basis?



Sofia K.

SCHOOL OF FOREIGNERS

Usually foreign immigrants have to learn the language of the host country in school. But in our school, everyone will learn about each other's languages and cultures. There will not be one main language or subject. Kids will teach each other and adults too. The subjects in such a school might seem quite unusual: African dance, Kurdish cuisine, Hungarian language, ancient Greek history. Everyone will offer classes and whoever wants can attend them. One could say that no one will really learn anything at a school like that, but think about it: everyone will be busy from morning to evening and will learn a lot more than normal schools can teach.



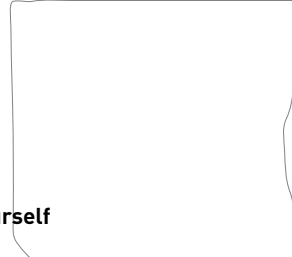
Elina M.

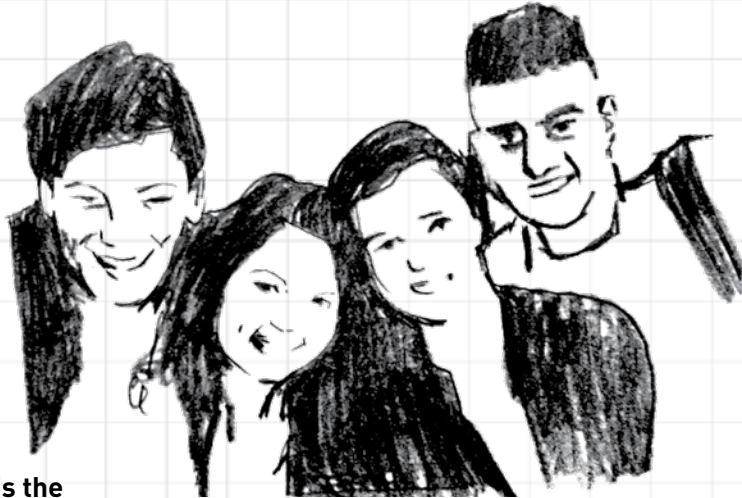
SPY SCHOOL

At this school, you'll need to learn to hide, disguise yourself, escape, deceive, trick and run away.

You also learn ten foreign languages all at once, because you never know where you might end up as a spy. The main subjects in spy school are psychology and the arts. If you know what different people like to read or the films they watch, then you can easily understand their psychology and character, befriend them and they will trust you.

Draw yourself





MAPLE SYRUP CULT

The Maple Syrup Cult School is the collective brainchild of eight high school students. Though it started out as a utopian idea it very quickly turned nasty/into a nightmare/dystopia.

The school is located in the midst of [an idyllic] maple forest. The pupils' main job is to extract syrup from the trees; they sustain themselves and the school by selling the syrup.

But all the kids here are actually prisoners. Once in school, they become trapped forever. Barbed wire surrounds the school. They have to work all day, every day. Children are born, grow up, grow old and die – all in school. That's why the school also has a hospital, nursing home, and cemetery.

The classrooms are full of monotonous gray beds and tables. A girl just drew all these beds into the classroom plan with no explanation, but everyone seemed to support her idea.

Instead of regular school subjects like math and science The Maple Syrup Cult School teaches:

- maple syrup marketing
- maple syrup production
- maple syrup collection (every afternoon)
- maple syrup sales (the rest of the time)

The school is senseless and merciless!

Kids who, for whatever reason, join the school are then forced to work from dawn till dusk their entire lives. And as the popularity of Maple Syrup is constantly on the rise – there's no chance of respite in the future!

Despite this, the school plan drawn by the students looks really wonderful / beautiful and intriguing. Who would have guessed what horrors are going on behind the barbed wire fence!

Draw yourself



Draw yourself

Nika D.

SCHOOL OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS

I want to go to a school like that myself, or I'd build it so other kids can go there.

I have always been interested in anthropology. I like that anthropologists travel a lot, and they don't know for sure how we are

supposed to live.

I think that this school should be mobile – constantly moving from country to country and place to place. With each move/in each location kids will learn new things, new languages and experience new cultures.

In Africa we can study one thing, and something totally different in Russia. Everyone who graduates will know lots of foreign languages and will have a variety of skills from cultures all over the world.

Thinking of how the Anthropology School might look, I would draw it like this car-ship-plane-house, in which we would all live.

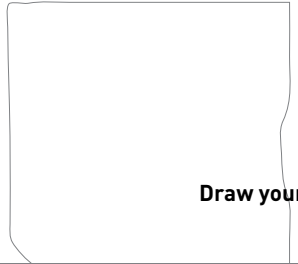


Frank E.

SOLDIER SCHOOL

This is a school of survival. Like in the army we'll go on difficult expeditions, walking incredible distances with limited food and water supplies. Any pupil who feels that it's too hard for them to handle is free to leave at any moment – no one is forced. But those who stay and endure it will become almost super-human by the end of their studies.

Draw yourself



Draw yourself



Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line. The page contains several sets of these lines for practice.



Maria U.

SCHOOL FOR NOBLE
MAIDENS

A girl from Russia, who wished to remain anonymous, told how she would really like to learn if she had the opportunity. Then she sighed and said that most likely there would be no such school for her.

I would like to study in a school especially for women. Like it was hundred of years ago, when girls from good families didn't have to learn math or play volleyball. They were sent to special finishing schools and taught dance, etiquette, parenting skills, needlework and making polite conversation. I think modern ideas about gender equality still don't really work. Whatever people may say, women earn less money and still depend on men. So I think my school would be extremely popular and will produce successful women.

Draw yourself



Lara K.

ART SCHOOL ON AN ISLAND

This school was invented by girls studying in a Berlin high school.

It's only for very talented kids, and it's very difficult to get admitted. The teachers are famous curators, artists and gallery-owners/museum directors. The school teaches children to become artists and curators. It is located on a remote island surrounded by ocean. Children are taken by helicopter to the mainland, where they can observe the lives of other people and reflect this in their artworks. These children are the future creators of culture, they regularly put on exhibitions in which they express the problems of the Big World seen from their birds eye view.



Bella B.

SCHOOL for MAGICIANS

I want to go to a school for magicians But it wouldn't be like in Harry Potter school, where only the select few are admitted. Everyone who wants can enroll in this real school of magicians. Magicians will also study mathematics, foreign languages, acrobatics and chemistry. There will be a big auditorium, where children will perform each week and invite anyone who wants to watch. There will be a huge warehouse, where pupils can go whenever they want to look for some props for their magic tricks. The school will also have a laboratory where you can go to experiment and invent new tricks. It will have all manner of necessary devices: flasks, mechanisms and books to write down your ideas.

Draw yourself

NOW THAT
YOU'VE
SEEN AND
READ ABOUT
DIFFERENT
TYPES OF
SCHOOLS –

BOTH
REAL AND
IMAGINARY,
IT'S TIME
TO INVENT
YOUR OWN
SCHOOL.

DESCRIBE YOUR
SCHOOL

I made a list of questions. Maybe it will help you remember some things to think about when planning a school. But these are just suggestions, feel free to ignore them if you want.



What will be the entry criteria for your school – who will be admitted?
Where will the students come from?
Write a school timetable here. Will you have a timetable?
Will there be a school bell, break times, will classes have a beginning and end?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**And what about grades? How will you evaluate achievement?
What will be considered as achievement?
Will there be any form of punishment in your school?
Will anyone be expelled, and if so what for?
What will happen to children who are late for class?**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.



Who will cook in your school – the children themselves? Special staff?
Or will food be ordered online / printed on a 3D printer?

Write your school's menu for one week.

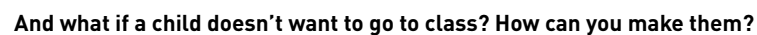
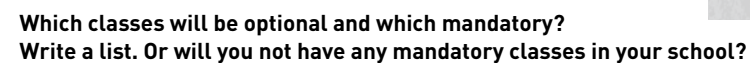
DESCRIBE YOUR SCHOOL



Will pets be allowed in your school can you bring dogs, cats and birds to class?



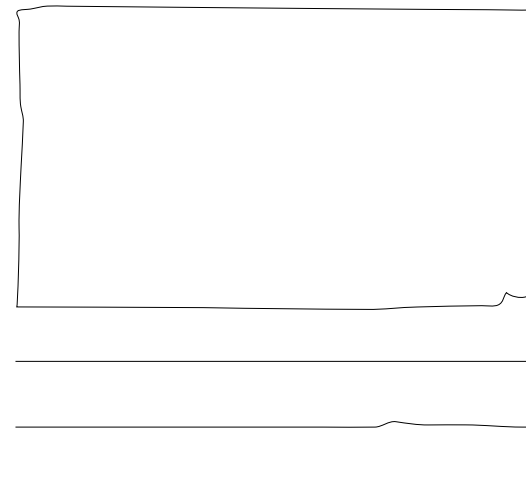
What kind of teachers will you have? Who will decide what teachers to hire?
Will the children be separated into age groups or will they all study together?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

**Remember you're free
to invent whatever you like.
The most unbelievable
activities and subjects.**

DESCRIBE YOUR SCHOOL

Think of a flag and motto
for your school and draw them here.



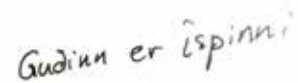
Here's plenty of space for drawing some plans
of your school. You've already been drawing over
existing plans and photographs, now draw on a
blank page. Don't forget to annotate what's where.

How will children get from one class to another?
If they will live in the school, then how
and when can parents visit: only on certain days,
whenever they want or never?
Can kids speak with parents on the phone?
When? How often?

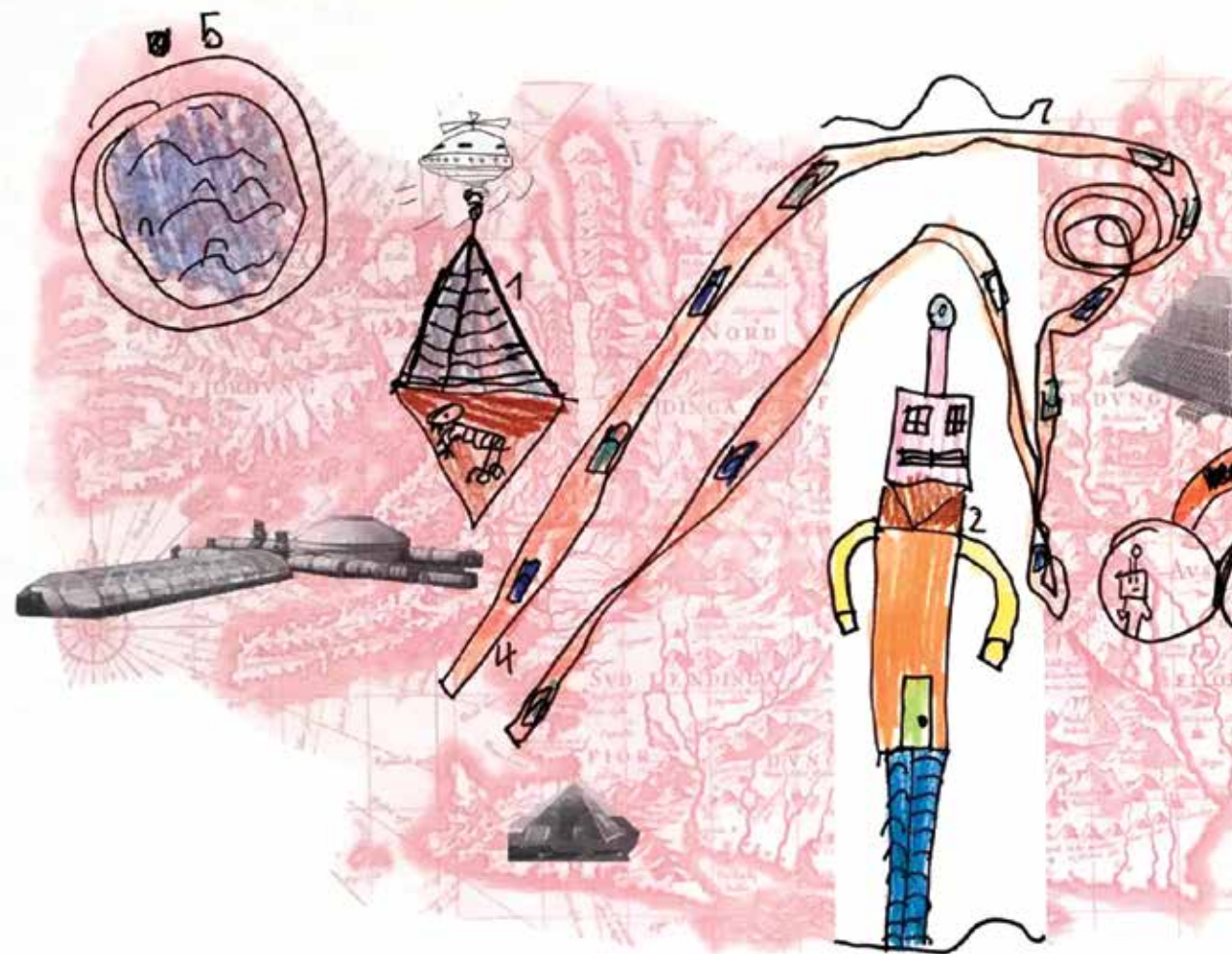
Suggestions:

- uniform
- mixed girls & boys or separate
- free or paid
- city or countryside
- garden/science lab/cinema/ice rink
- holidays

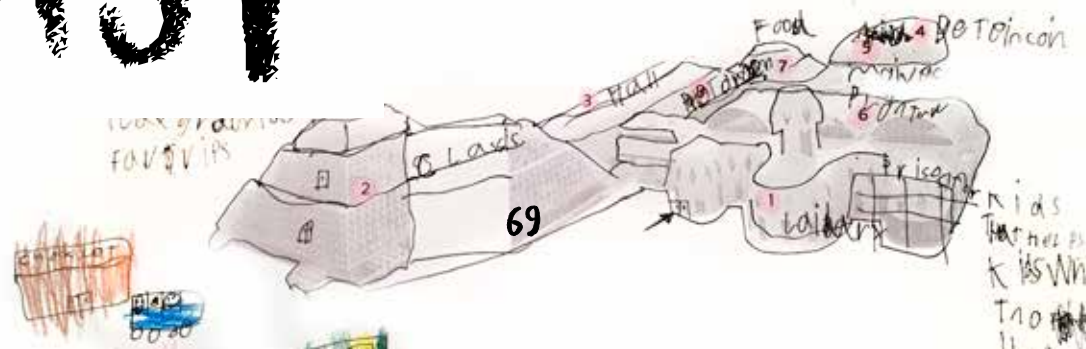




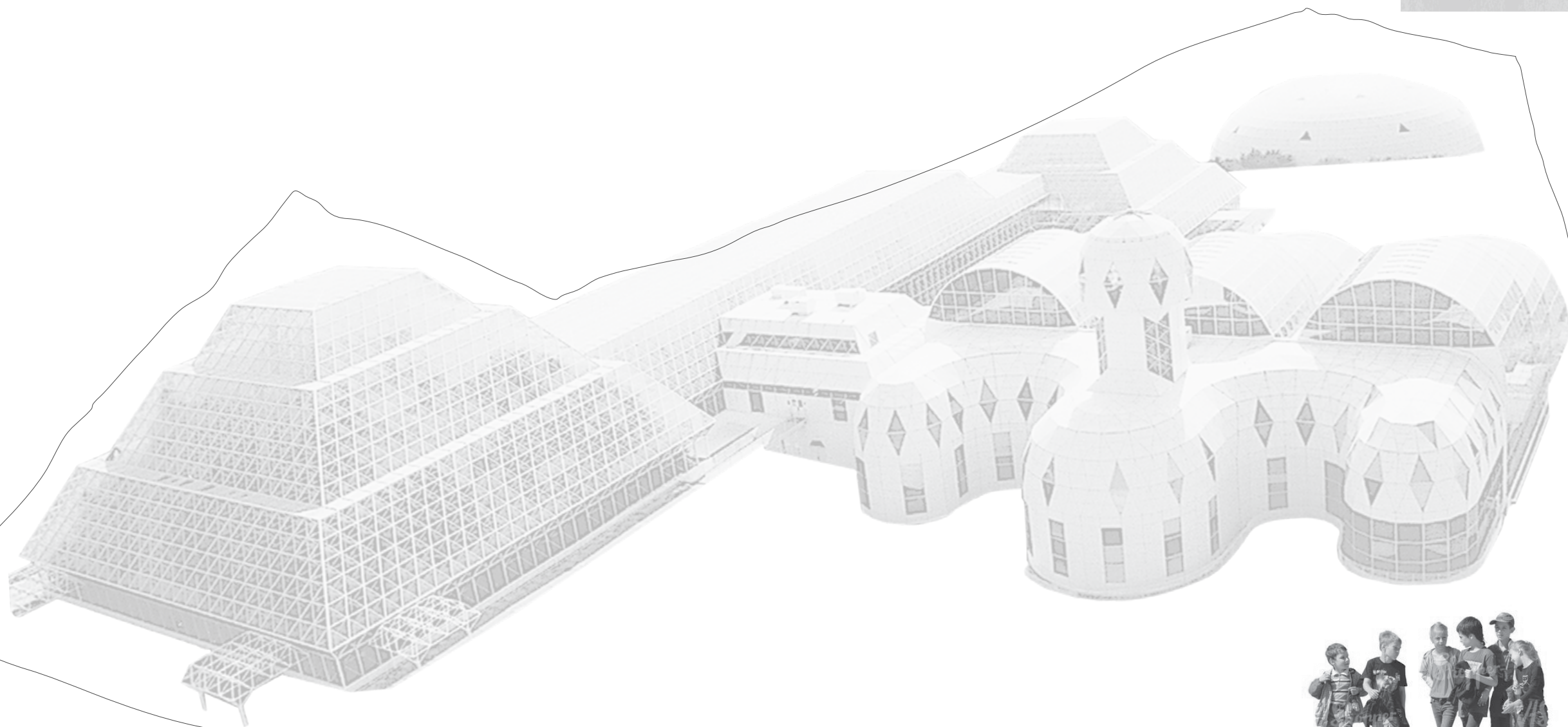
- 
- ① Þetta er Guð.
Sem er til alltaf.
Hann flygur öllu - selur
 - ② og tungl er á himninum.
 - ③ Samtíðis.
 - ④ Þeir flygur frá Guðinum.
 - ⑤ Hann skemur annan kastala og býr til annan.
 - ⑥ Hann lætur líka fugla.
Glugga fyrir Hann.



SCHOOLS AS A FANTASY



- 1 flj'ing and safn
 0 þegar það lendir
 er það Næðan-
 2 Jandarn og uppi
 er hægt að sko-
 2 hús þem er



**Your school in this
building. Describe
what located in
which part.**



This school is magic!
Add some details.



INVENT YOUR
SCHOOL



Draw plan of the school
of your dreams.



Draw school plan
and describe details.



Draw a school plan for
the far future





Draw a plan of the school,
where everyone is happy.





How would look like
the school of the future
technology?



Draw a plan of the school for
the superheros.

Populare education book
FROM THE SERIAS OF «A4TEENS»

Nika Dubrovsky
What is school?

for the middle grade students

Illustration by author
Editor **Anna Akopova,**
Yakov Lurie, Alexey Borrisenok
Proofreader **Barbara Andersen**
Design and layout **Ludmila Ivakina and Elena Shindykova**
Cover by **Torsten Lesszinsky and Elena Shindykova**

A4kids.org
nika@dubrovsky.com