

engaging stories

The Young Person's Guide to Life



What it's all about?

Children say the funniest things. They also say the most profound things, the most poignant things, the wisest things, and often the most beautiful things. There is so much that we can learn from children. They are a constant source of inspiration. And so we're going to capture their thoughts in a book – **The Young Person's Guide to Life**.

Who can take part?

Any young person under 18 can take part. Written consent will be required – you'll just need to sign a form to say you agree for them to take part. We are looking for a mix of ages.

How does it work?

You will choose a theme (or you can be allocated one if you don't have a preference). On the next page, you can find the themes and some suggested questions – though you don't have to follow the questions. Then it can work in one of two ways. Either the young person, if they are old enough to, can write their thoughts on this theme themselves. Or the adult can interview the young person and write down what they say verbatim.

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What should the piece look like?

Whether it's written by the young person or recorded by the adult it should read like a first-person piece. Here are a couple that have appeared in other books to give you an idea: this one was recorded verbatim: [Sunday 9 May 2021: Thea, 5, Norfolk – When the world paused \(wordpress.com\)](#) and here's one that was written by the young person: [Wednesday 9 June 2021: Edward Murray, Norfolk – When the world paused \(wordpress.com\)](#) And this is one that will be appearing in The Young Person's Guide to Life: [A Young Person's Guide to.....Being A Child – engaging stories](#)

What are the other rules?

Between 500 – 1200 words would be ideal. Nothing too controversial or potentially divisive (though I'm not sure we have to worry about that with kids!!) The pieces will show the author's first name only and their age at the time of their contribution.

What are the themes?

Below are the themes and some writing questions to act as prompts. However these are very broad and of course the young person is free to take the piece off in their own direction.

Learning	What do you love to learn? What is the best thing about school? What is your favourite subject at school and why? Why do you think children have to learn? What's the most important thing you've learnt? What thing have you learnt that you think everyone should know?
Fun	What does having fun feel like? What is the most fun that you have every had? What do you like to do for fun? Why do you think it's important to have fun? What is the most fun thing that you haven't done that you would like to do? Do you think grown-ups have enough fun? What advice do you have for grown ups to have more fun?
Friendship	What do you like about having friends? What do you and your friends do together? What things do you think make a good friend? Why are you a good friend? What can you do to make new friends? What would you say to someone you meet who you would like to be friends with? Why do you think it's important to have friends? What message do you have for your friends?
Work	What job would you like to do when you grow up? Why would you like to do this?

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	<p>What do you think happens at work? What do you think would make work fun for you? What do you think grown ups think about work? What's the most important thing about work do you think?</p>
Family	<p>What does family mean to you? Who is in your family? What do you love about your family? What are your favourite things to do in your family? What do your parents / grandparents / sisters / brothers mean to you? What do you think is the most important thing about being a family?</p>
Love	<p>What does love mean to you? Who do you love? How do you show people that you love them? How do people show you they love you? What is the best thing when you love people? What does it feel like when someone loves you? Why do you think love is so important? How can grown ups show more love for each other in the world?</p>
Dreams	<p>What are your dreams in life? Why are these things important to you? What will it feel like when you achieve your dreams? Why do you think it's important to have a dream in life? How can you make sure that you get your dream to come true?</p>
Being a child	<p>What is the best thing about being a child? What is better about being a child than being an adult? What do you think that you get to do as a child that you don't get to do as an adult? What do you think adults could learn from children?</p>
Being a grown up	<p>What do you think is the best thing about being a grown up? What kind of things do you think you do as a grown up that you don't do as a child? What do you think you will miss about being a child when you're an adult? Which grown ups do you look up to and why? In what ways should grown-ups be more like children?</p>
Travel	<p>Where have you visited before? What is your favourite place to go to? What did you like about it? Where would you like to visit in future? And why? What's the best thing about travelling to other places? Why do you think it is important for people to go to other places?</p>
Our planet	<p>What do you love about the world? What do you love about where you live? What is your favourite thing about nature? What do you love to do outside in nature? Why is it important that we look after the world? What things can we do to look after where we live?</p>
Helping others	How do you help others?

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	What have you done in the past? How have other people helped you? Why do you think it's important to help other people? What things do you think people should do more of to help others? What does it feel like when you help others? How can we all help other more?
Happiness	What makes you happy? What makes you less happy? What do you do when you feel happy? (do you smile, dance, hug people etc) Who makes you feel happy? What do you think makes grown-ups happy? How do you make sure you do things that make you happy every day? What's your favourite thing to do to make you happy?
The best things in life	What are your favourite things to do? What does it feel like when you do your favourite things? What do you think are the best things in life? What are the best things about being you? What are the most important things in life to you? Why are these things so important?

What happens once it's written?

Once it's written, please send it to engagingstories@yahoo.com – for proofing and editing – although editing is light touch to not lose the young person's words. You will then get a proof of the text to approve and then it will go into a manuscript.

What about the front cover?

The front cover will be in keeping with previous designs with pics on the front cover of contributors, like we did here: [When The World Paused \(2 book series\) Paperback edition \(amazon.co.uk\)](#) and here: [The Things I Wish I'd Known: Amazon.co.uk: Contributors, Various, Gant, Michelle: 9798377782940: Books](#) However, you may not wish to have a photo of your child on the front cover so you could provide a more abstract pic instead, for example, a pic of them in silhouette, their face hidden.

What are the timescales?

The deadline to submit content is **Sunday 1st September** (which gives us the summer hols to get the text written!)

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Publication and launch is planned for **November 2024** so that we can be in time for Christmas. A perfect gift for family and friends!

Where will the book be sold

The book will be sold on Amazon and **100% of all royalties – every single penny we earn in profit – will go to the NSPCC.**

Together, we can share the incredible inspiring wisdom of young people and make a difference for the NSPCC.

