



Ideas for thinking about SCHOOL

By Ellen Duthie & Daniela Martagón



What do I have to do and what should I be like if I want to become a good teacher?

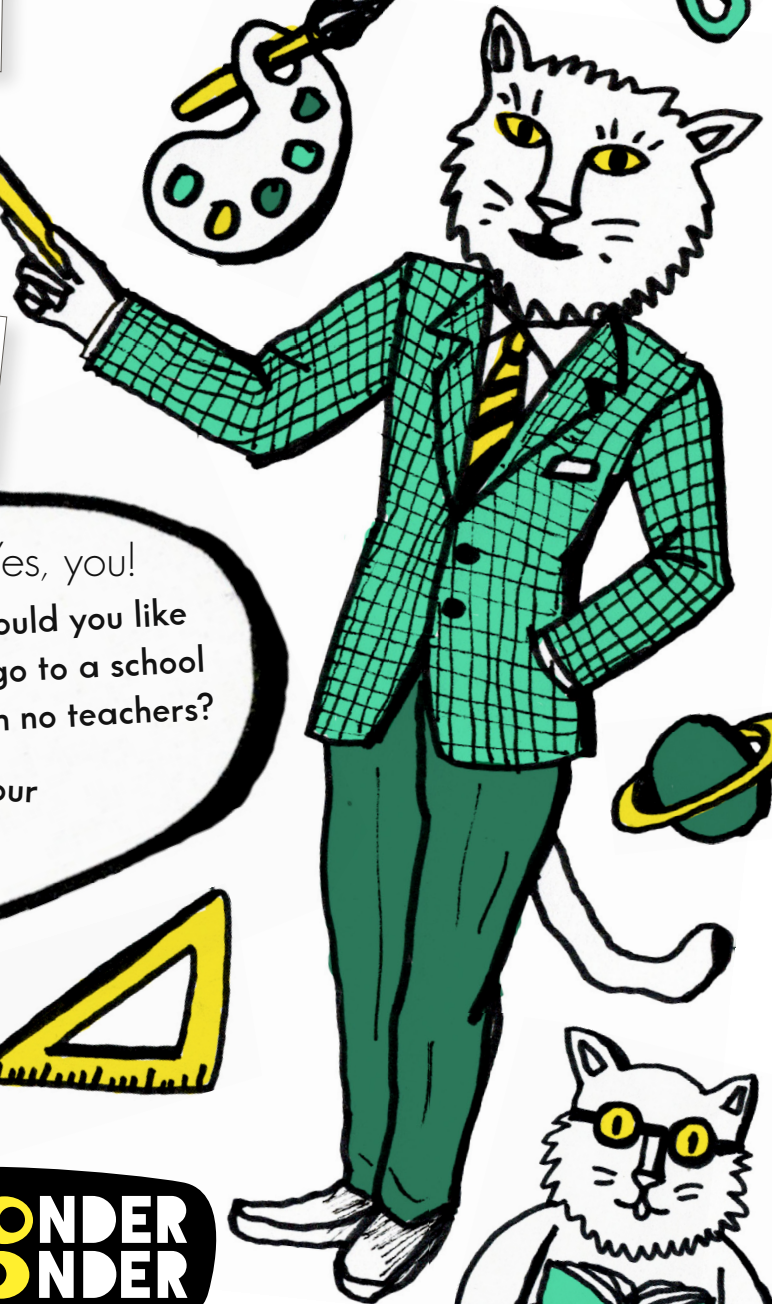
What is school for?

Could a cat be a good teacher for humans? What about a robot?

Have you learnt anything so far today?



Hi there! Yes, you!
Could you be a teacher of anything? What of?
Would you like to go to a school with no teachers?
What would the school of your dreams be like?
What about the school of your nightmares?



Visual Philosophy for People & Cats
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Learning



How do you learn things?
Are there different ways of learning?

Is everything you learn useful in some way?
Have you learnt anything so far today?

Is your learning your responsibility?
Your teacher's responsibility? Or is it up to you both? How does it work?

Do you learn anything during your holidays?

What things is it important to learn?

Have you ever learnt something by accident?

Who should decide what is important to learn?

Would it be possible for someone to live all their life without learning anything at all? What would a person who has never learnt anything be like?

Are there some things that it is better NOT to learn?

An alien lands at your school and asks you what learning means. How would you explain it?



Would you rather learn at home on the computer or in class with teachers? Why?

Do you think there will come a day when you will have learnt everything you need?



Can you know something by heart but not understand a word of it?

What things can you learn without any effort?
What things is it impossible to learn without making an effort?

Do some things need to be unlearned?
What, for example?

Can you learn without understanding?
Can you understand without learning?

Can you pass a test without understanding?



borking borking

Do you sometimes get bored at school?

What can a teacher do to reduce boredom in the classroom?

What can you do to reduce your own boredom?





Am I doing it right, Mummy?

Would you like to learn how to tame lions? Why?

What is the difference between educating and taming?

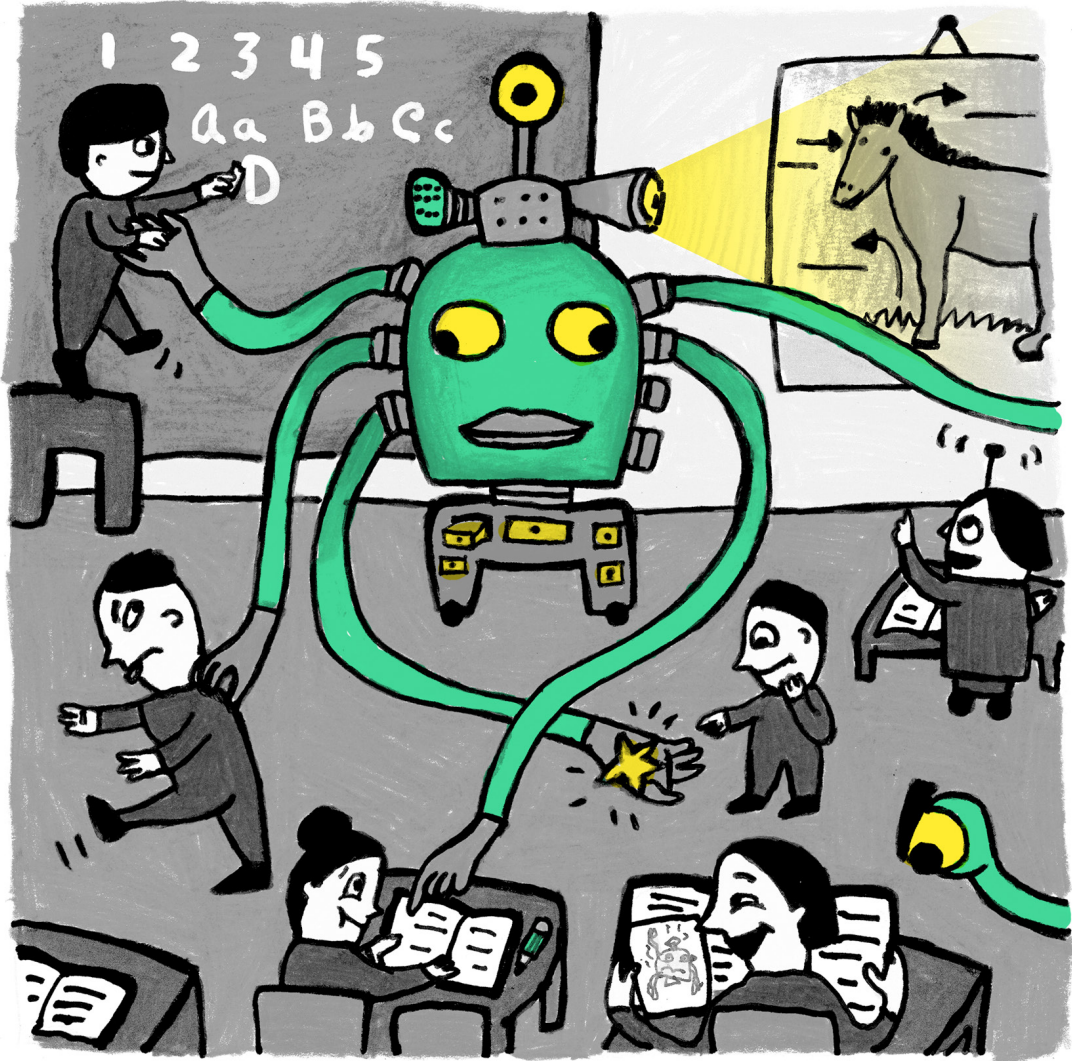
What is the difference between educating and taming?

Can learning be dangerous?

Would you prefer going to work to going to school? Why?

If children wish to work, should they be free to do so?

Are the lions playing, learning or working?
Is the girl playing, learning or working?



Who knows the answer?

Would the class behave better with a human teacher than with a robot teacher?

Who would be a better teacher, a robot or a person? Why?

Is having data the same as having knowledge?
Do computers understand?

What makes a good student?

This teacher sees everything.
Is it a good thing for children to be supervised at all times?

One of the students in the scene is a robot. Would it make sense for a robot to go to school?

Is having data the same as having knowledge?
Do computers understand?



If you were the Head of your school, what rules would you establish for teachers? What rules would you establish for students?

Besides teachers, what other people do you learn things with?

Teachers

What are the requirements to be a good teacher?

What do you think would happen in a school without teachers? Would there be any disadvantages? Would there be any advantages?

Interview your teacher

- 1 What do you enjoy doing when you are not at school?
- 2 What did you like and what didn't you like about school when you were a kid?
- 3 When you went to school, were there any teachers you didn't like?
What was it about them that you didn't like?
- 4 Do you enjoy your work?
- 5 What is the most difficult thing about your work?
- 6 What is the most enjoyable thing about your work?
- 7 Did you ever fail a test?
- 8 Do your students show you anything?
- 9 How do you learn how to teach?
- 10 What do you think is the most important thing for your students to learn?

Think of one more question that will help you get to know your teacher as well as possible and add it to the questionnaire.
Now interview your teacher!

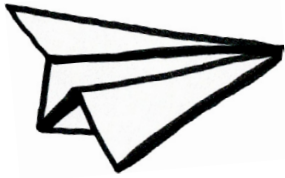


Story / Essay

Sometimes, writing can help you think.

What if you write a story set in a school without teachers? See what interesting ideas and situations you come up.





Friends and other school creatures

What makes a good friend?

What terrible things would you forgive a good friend for?

What would you do if a class mate asked you to do something you did not want to do?

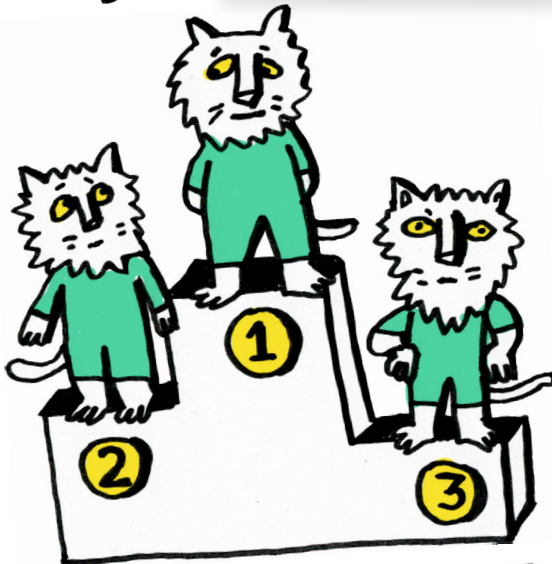


Is there anything you would never ever forgive even your best friend for?

Have you been treated unkindly by other children? What did you do about it?

What would you do if you saw someone treating someone else badly at school?

Have you ever realised that you have treated someone else unkindly? What did you do about it?



Would you rather that grades were kept secret or that everyone knew about everyone else's grades? Why?

Do you think it would be a good idea or a bad idea for medals to be given to the students with the best grades in class?



School

What is school for?

(Make a list of all the possible uses a school may have).

Does your school have all those uses?

Your school



What good things does your school have?

What things could be improved at your school?

What things can you do to make your school better?
Can you do something, even if it's something very small?

What things could be improved in your classroom and in the school grounds with money?

What things could be improved in your classroom and in the school grounds without money?



Which of the rules applied at your school do you think are good rules?

Are there any rules at your school that you do not quite understand or that you do not like?

The school of my dreams / The school of my nightmares

Story / Drawing / Essay

Some interesting questions that might help you:

What would the perfect classroom be like?

What would the perfect school yard be like?

What subjects or things would you learn?

Who would be your teacher?
What would they be like?

How would you learn?

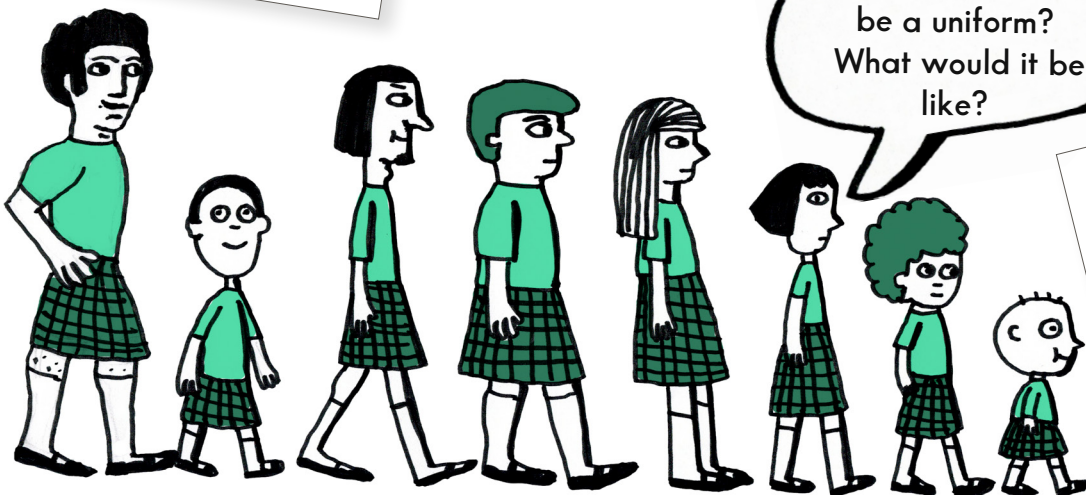
How would the students behave with each other?

How would the teachers behave?

Would there be any rules? If you answer is yes, what rules would there be?

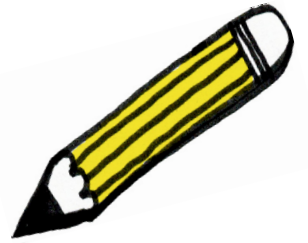
Would there be a uniform?
What would it be like?

What would a school without rules be like?



The school of my dreams /
The school of my nightmares

Story / Drawing / Essay



A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, outlined in black, intended for writing a story, drawing, or essay.

My questions about

SCHOOL

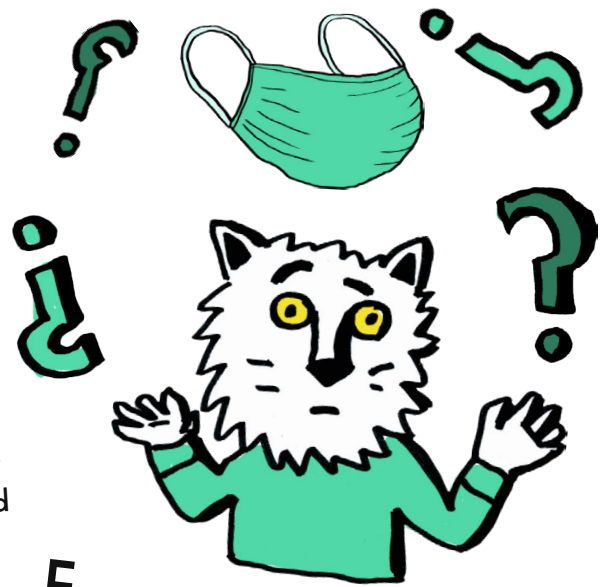
Write your own questions about school in general or about your school in particular. You can ask questions about school in a pandemic or about school in normal circumstances. You can include some of your favourite questions from this booklet, but you can also think of some of your own. You are bound to have some very interesting ones! Your questions can be fun or serious (or both fun and serious at the same time), hard or easy to answer, with or without drawings to go by their side. Any way you like! But **please, please, please** make sure they're interesting!

Dilemmas

You have a dilemma when you don't know what to do. It's as if two rules clashed.

BOOM!

A friend asks you to show them your test without the teacher noticing, so that they can copy. On the one hand, you know it's wrong to talk during tests and you know it's wrong to copy. On the other hand, you know that it's right to help others, especially friends. It's hard to know what to do! What will you do?

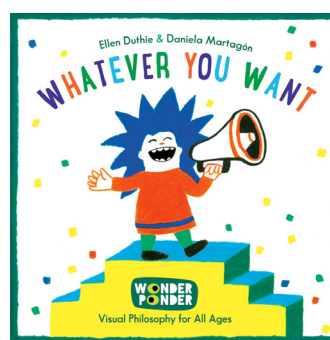
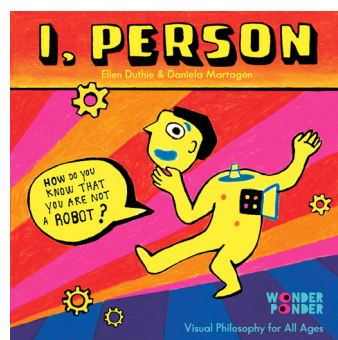
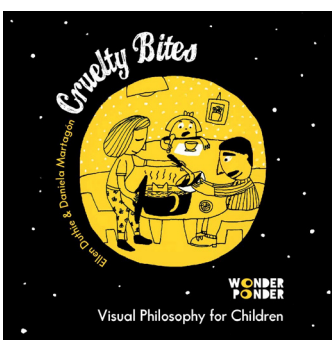


Every day you see one boy treat another boy badly in the school yard. He never treats you badly but it's the same thing every single day and he always takes a great deal of care to make sure the teachers don't see him. On the one hand you know that what's happening isn't right and you want it to stop, but on the other hand you don't like to tell on people and you are afraid that he might find out it was you. It's hard to know what to do! What will you do?

Some of the adults in your life think all this fuss over the virus is too much and simply refuse to wear a mask anywhere at all. Other adults in your life think the pandemic is a very real threat and masks should be worn in public wherever possible. How confusing! How can you access reliable information to help you understand the situation yourself?

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