

LE COSE CHE NESSUNO HA IL CORAGGIO DI DIRTI PRIMA DEI 10 ANNI by ALBERTO PELLAI and BARBARA TAMBORINI
THINGS THAT NO ONE DARE TO SAY BEFORE YOU TURN TEN

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INTRODUCTION

You have to ask questions to grow up. Many questions.

Adults know it, but they don't always give an answer to children questions, or they answer vaguely. Because they think some questions are impossible. But, on the contrary, they are perfectly natural. They are born with us and stay in our hearts and in our mind all lifelong.

Some of those questions don't have sure answers, because everyone must find his own. This kind of questions are about complicated and painful topics, those that we would never face. Why do we get sick? Why do we die? Why do parents decide to separate? Why do people around the world carry out massacres or terroristic actions?

Unfortunately, in those cases, to find answers means getting through negative emotions. But to grow up, we must learn everything about life: the beautiful and the ugly. It would be better to never have to face the ugly, but it's impossible. In small or heavy doses, sooner or later, it comes in everyone's life. Therefore, it's better to be prepared. To know what it's made of and how to face it. Because if you know, you suffer. But you also know how to look that ugly into the eyes, go through it and maybe defeat it.

But, if you try to tell grown-ups that you need them to tell you everything, they get anxious. You'll always be a kid to protect for them, to whom it's better not saying such things, to not frighten or make him suffer in vain. And you remain alone with your thousands of questions.

If you also think that grown-ups should tell you everything you think is important to know... that's your book.

We didn't only talk about bad things. There's much more. There are answers that the grownups can't give you because they are embarrassed or ashamed, like with sexuality matters. There are also answers to urgent questions about everyday life and about the fact that we all have to work hard to make the world a better place. In this book we will talk, then, about bullying and cyberbullying, racism and immigration, pandemic and dyslexia. And so on and so forth. Dive into these pages as you'll do from a 10 mt springboard. Let yourself go and plunge deeply in the doubts and curiosities you never asked about, even if the question was right there, on the tip of the tongue. Sometimes, you may land on your tummy and it could hurt. Don't worry, it happens to everyone. If ever, talk with an adult that can help you. Maybe, read together the pages that deeply touches your sensibility, your emotions, your fears, your doubts. Share the reading also with your best friends, with your classmates. Because when you face this kind of topic, strength through unity. In the end, you'll find a great treasure. Because admitting that you don't know something and committing yourself to better know it will make you grown up person, but also a great person.

1st chapter

TERRORISM

Last night, when I went into the kitchen, I immediately felt that my parents were taut. They stared at the tv, so I watched too. News were talking about an attack. I didn't understand well what it was, but I understood that people died.

Mom and dad didn't talk, and that silence weighed on me even if I didn't know why.

I tried to tell them a fun fact occurred at school that morning, but they interrupted me: "Not now, let's listen the tv".

When I noticed that bodies on the ground on the tv, I was alarmed and I asked: "Dad, mom, what's going on?"

"Nothing don't worry" they said hastily and changed the channel.

But those people looked like me. And if tomorrow, at my basket training, or when I'm going to school, something like that happens to me?

- What is terrorism? -

Terrorists are person that, at least in words, would like to change the world, but they actually make it only worst. They go where the so called by them "enemy" lives and set off a bomb. Or they shoot with the submachine gun. Or take hostages.

- Why do they do it? -

Terrorist hurt other people to seed, indeed, terror. They want that their "enemy" changes his mind on something, that he accepts their ideas or specific requests. In order to obtain it, they make you believe that, at every step you take, you are in danger. They want you to be frightened, that you shut yourself in your house, that you change your routine because you're scared of what could happen out there. Unless, you do what they want.

THEY MAKE YOU BELIEVE THAT, AT EVERY STEP YOU TAKE, YOU ARE IN DANGER

You know, the bully of the class the threatens to play a nasty trick on you if you don't let him copy your homework? Well, the principle is the same.

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

You may have heard of the Twin Towers, the highest skyscrapers on New York, that the 11 September 2011 were hit by two planes and collapsed, killing thousands of people. It was an attack that shocked the world. There were attacks, later, also in Europe: Berlin, London, Paris, Nice, Madrid. And also, in Italy, many years ago, there were bombs, murders and kidnapping, by Italian terrorists asking for a political change. Maybe at school they may have told you about the Piazza Fontana bombing or the Bologna railway massacre. Ask your parents or your grandparents: they surely remember those episodes and what they were doing when they happened.

- What if it happens to me? –

When there's an attack somewhere around the world, all the media -tv, newspapers, radio, social networks- talk about it. Reporters with worried voices talk from the place of the massacre. Hundreds of times, images of the event are on the monitors. Therefore, something happened in a definite place in the world, maybe far away, suddenly seems so close. And you start to be worried that it can happen to you too. And that is exactly what terrorists want.

- Words and acts of peace –

That's the point: terrorists are cowards. Because changing the world doesn't need violence. Changing the world needs words and acts of peace. Needs you to tell your opinion without aggressiveness, needs to ask people with the actual power to change things and to make a deal, a solution respectful of who has different ideas from you.

COWARD

When someone doesn't react and accept an injustice, without saying a word, or become a bully to obtain something, is said to be a coward. Coward is, generally speaking, who is afraid to ask clearly and calmly what he wants and is scared to work hard to achieve it, therefore he gives up or try with force.

- Breathe deeply and stop to think –

Think carefully: even if terrorists want you to believe you're in danger, maybe no one of your friends or acquaintances is a victim of a terroristic attack. Maybe even in your city such a thing never happened. Therefore, the risk to be a victim of a terroristic attack is really real?

To be scared by terrorism is normal. But you consider that:

- Every day around the world, many professionals work to protect all of us, also you, from terrorism: policemen, soldiers, politicians, even secret agents, always on the lookout... just as your mom and dad when you are out;
- It is very much more likely to be hit by a lightning than by terroristic attack. And how many people hit by a lightning do you know?

- The world is a balloon –

Terrorists are thieves of happiness. If you want to fight them, do not let them steal even an ounce, of your happiness.

There's who wants you to believe that the world is dangerous, but you travel, discover always new places, make many friends and never stop to be curious.

Treat the world like a balloon: play with it, throw it away and then run after it. Don't be afraid of it: the world is your home and there's always a new place to discover, without fear.

DO NOT LET THEM STEAL EVEN AN OUNCE, OF YOUR HAPPINESS

MOHANDAS GANDHI

A revolution without guns is possible and Mohandas Gandhi taught us how. He was a lawyer and lived in India during the England dominion. He fought for the independence of his country with rallies, speeches to promote a deal instead of war and with symbolic gesture, like standing motionless before the English soldiers, doing nothing.

He's been killed in 1948, but thanks to him India is now an independent country and his nonviolent protest became a model for many people.

REMEMBER:

- Do not make yourself to be locked in the prison of fear. The only prison needed is the one where terrorists are locked in. #paura=prigione
- You live in a super-safe world, full of eyes watching over your safety. #youaresafe
- The world is your hands: don't let them take it away from you. #worldisyours

A QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT

When is the last time you have been afraid that something you heard on tv cold happen to you or your loved ones? Did it then actually happen?

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