



Peace Child International
empowering young people

UN Day Festival 2021

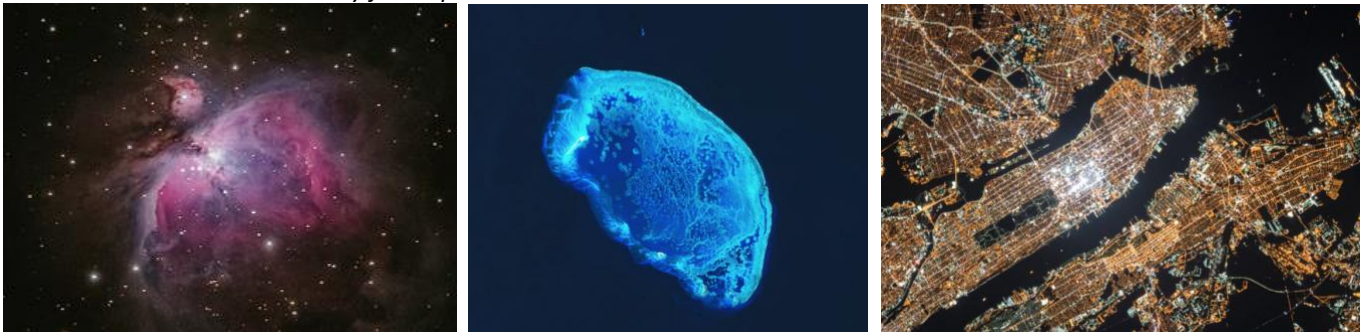
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1st DRAFT TELEPLAY

Chapter ONE: SETTING THE SCENE

ANIMATION: Planet Earth, looking like an ungainly Spaceship, bumps across a dark corner of an indifferent universe – it's surface spluttering with life and weather. Music builds as we dive into its atmosphere.....

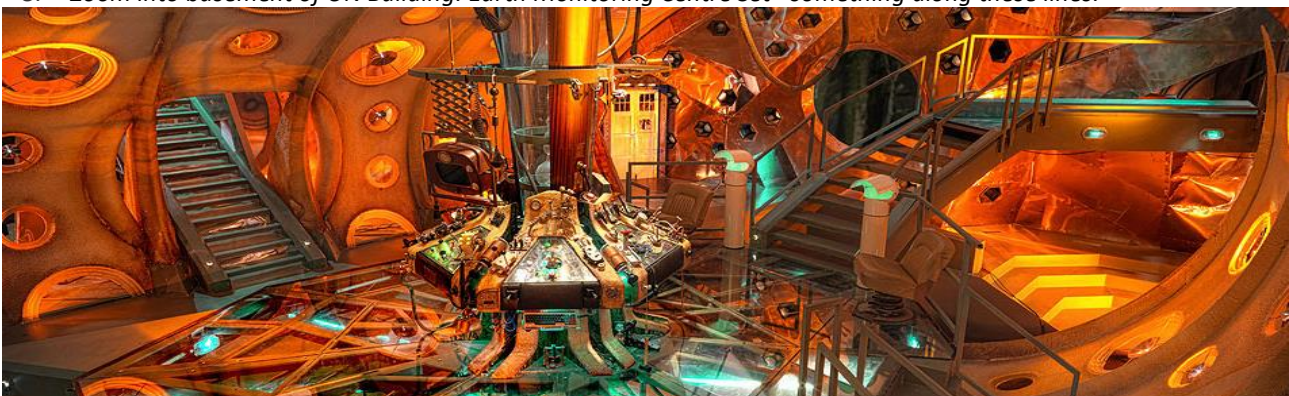
1. Zoom into New York City from Space



2. Zoom up East River to UN Building



3. Zoom into basement of UN Building: Earth Monitoring Centre Set - something along these lines:



Earth Monitoring Centre(EMC) The Actor / Host + teen-agers act out their scenes against a glowing CGI backdrop

The Actor / Host, dressed as a futuristic Jedi knight, welcomes a random group of 10 x young teenagers representing the world's major nationalities and ethnicities into the EMC – a futuristic chamber, filled with video screens and panels.

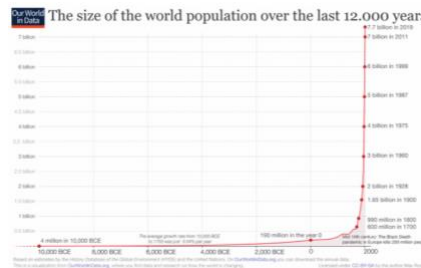
Actor/Host: “Welcome to the Earth Monitoring Centre – where we track the health of this Planet Spaceship on which you find yourselves. It’s going to be your home for the next 60 – 70 – 80 – maybe even 100 years. So you want to be sure it’s in good shape, don’t you?”

The kids nod and say “Yes / Si / Da / Evet” etc.

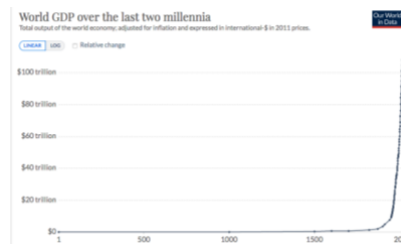
“You have to think about our planet as a living thing – a big animal that gets coughs and colds like we do. [Animation: Spaceship Planet Earth coughs out in space] Our job here is watch it, take its temperature, prescribe treatments and medicines to solve its problems. BUT – it’s up to you, and the governments you elect, to make sure that it takes the medicine. Because you, all of you, are part of this animal: if you get sick or do stupid things, the planet animal suffers too.”

Kid: “So – how are we doing?”

Actor/Host: “On the face of it, we – the people - are doing fantastically well! Our numbers have gone from 1 billion to nearly 8 billion in just over 100 years. (*the world population graph rockets upwards*)



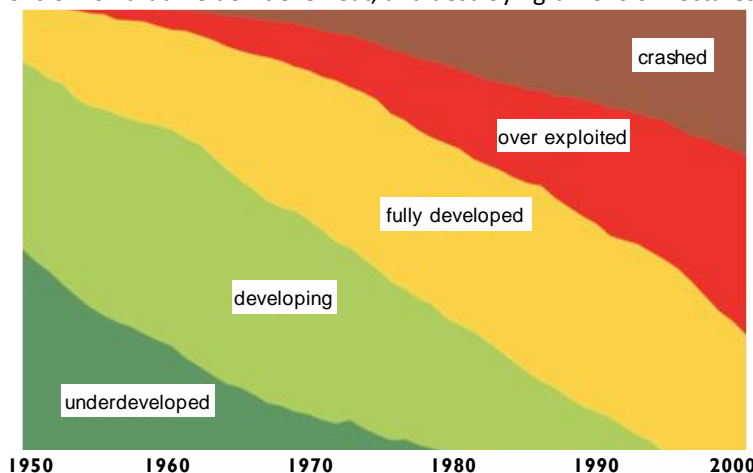
“And our global wealth has gone from 10 to 100 trillion in 70 years. (*Global GDP graph rockets up*)



Actor/Host: “But if you’d come so far so fast on a long car journey, you’d want to check the tank, wouldn’t you?” (They nod)

Actor/Host: “Or if you’d run up so much debt at the bank and had no idea when you might pay it back, you’d worry about going Bankrupt, No!?” (They nod)

Actor/Host: “So that’s our biggest worry here: that we’re bankrupting the planet. Running out of what we call ‘Natural Capital’ All the natural resources we have on the planet: the freshwater, the forests, the animals, the minerals. Everything Nature gives us – for Free! Except it isn’t free. Take one example: Fish. For centuries, people have been taking fish out of the ocean – just enough to feed themselves and their families. But now, big, industrial fishing machines vacuum up every living thing in the sea, killing millions of fish that we don’t even eat, and destroying billions of hectares of sea-weed forest.



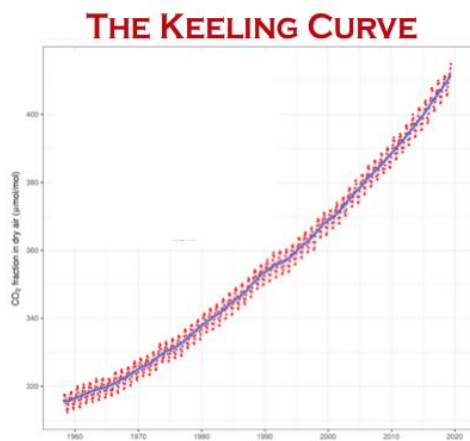
Actor/Host: “And – because we know roughly how many fish there are left in the ocean, and can divide that by the amount we’re taking out every year, it’s pretty easy to see when it’s all going to run out:



Actor/Host: *(The kids look on, a bit shocked)* “Within your lifetimes, right? And wouldn’t you like to be sitting down to a nice fish dinner with your grand-children? Isn’t going to happen if we go on as we are. So what we ALSO do here is look for solutions.

Kid Fish Farming?

Actor/Host: Tricky one. We think that lab-grown cellular fish, and plant-based substitutes is probably the better answer. But that’s what we discuss in this building – and in our agencies around the world. Preserving as much Natural Capital as we can so that your children and grand-children have fuel in the tank for their lives. ‘Cos it’s not just fish we’re running out of. We’re running out of everything – even the clean air we breathe. And Climate Change could make large parts of the planet impossible to live in. It’s getting hotter, right? *(Graph: Hockey Stick curve - rising)* And that's due to the amount of carbon in the atmosphere - measured by what we call the Keeling Curve:



Actor/Host: And, despite everything we’ve done the last 50 years, it’s been rising – relentlessly. If we go on like this, the 1.5 degree threshold will be reached here *(pointing)* in 2035, the 2.0 degree barrier will be broken by 2052. Polar ice caps? Gone! Sea levels rising, billions of people driven from their homes..... *(His voice fades down as music fades up...)*

SONG

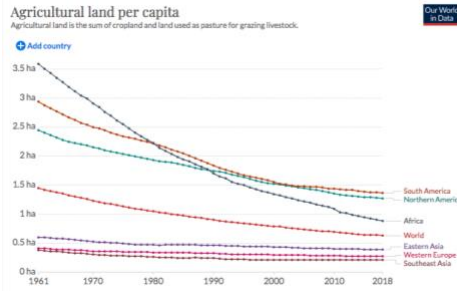
*Music: the song [World](#) plays as, one-by-one, deeply depressing statistics rapidly dissolve into each other, inter-cut with the host gesturing + **animation**: Spaceship Planet Earth bucking and wheezing out in space, parts of its surface bursting into flames, icecaps melting, emojis of sad faces etc. as an old man sings:*

*World – look at the way we are
Look at the things we do*

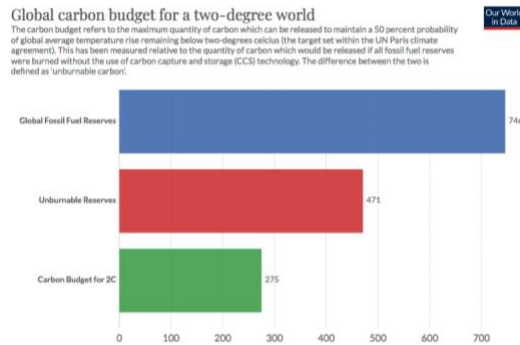
.....

*Gone, gone are all those lovely days
Gone are all the peaceful ways
All that's left is old and grey*

In the 60-seconds of this recorded song, we flash through a montage of the following 10 x indicators, flashing in star bursts – spreading across the screen. Lines rocketing up – box columns plummeting down. EG: Agricultural land per capita dropping:



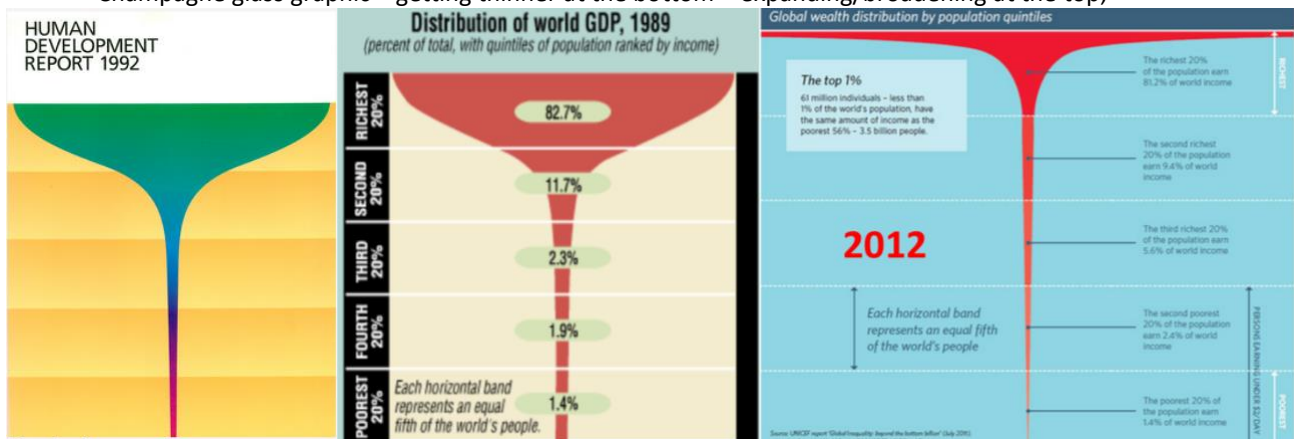
1. TITLE: CLIMATE



- Carbon Budget for a 2 degree world showing the reserves we cannot burn;
- Line shows how, burning it, would trigger 6-7 degrees of climate change and render vast swathes of the planet uninhabitable.
- A third line shows the number of deaths from air pollution rising;

2. TITLE: INEQUALITY – (1989 to 2100)

- Champagne glass graphic – getting thinner at the bottom – expanding/broadening at the top;



3. TITLE: EDUCATION – NOT FOR ALL (1948 – 2020)

- No. of kids who never go to school stays stubbornly in the millions;

4. TITLE: EMPLOYMENT

- Youth Unemployment(1950 – 2020) – rising

5. TITLE: HEALTH

- Pandemic preparedness: “COVID caught us unprepared;” Graph shows reduction in global facilities

6. TITLE: PEACE – (on same graph: 1945 –2020)

- Military Expenditures rise upward in the fastest year-on-year growth in decades;
- Peace-keeping expenditures stay the same at less than 0.5% of global military expenditures;
- The Number of Nuclear Weapons drop promisingly between 1986 -2000 but remain the same since rising slightly in the last 5 years.

7. TITLE: GOOD GOVERNANCE (Bar Chart: 2020)

- Quality Democracy Index – only 8% are in the top category;

8. TITLE: HUMAN RIGHTS (On same graph: 1950 – 2020)

- No. of Refugees looked after by UNHCR
- No. of people incarcerated
- No. of people executed

9. TITLE: SOIL & FORESTS (On same graph: 1900 – projected 2100)
 - World Totals of Forest Area – two lines on same graph representing Virgin / Rain Forest vs. Cultivated
 - Tons of soil Eroded – showing the rate of losses / areas desertified every year;
10. TITLE: WILDERNESS & BIODIVERSITY (On same graph: 1900 – projected 2100)
 - Acreage of wild space remaining – going down
 - Biodiversity losses / extinctions / Red List numbers – going up
 - Acreage of Coral Reefs Remaining – going down

*And our world is fading
Our world is dying – today!*

Images of a desert wasteland with the sound of the wind filling the void left as the music stops.... The wind fades to an eerie silence. Then the music starts again – more upbeat. Young bright voices sing these lyrics:

*Can't you see the tide is changing?
Don't you see the people training?
Children coming out from under
Slowly rising with the thunder*

*Listen to the protests rising
Demanding truth and emphasising
Human rights – the road to follow
Leading to a great tomorrow*

*Can't you see the world's improving?
Happy people all are shining
Law and justice has been crowned
Misery and madness drowned!*

*World – look at what we could be!
Look at what we've achieved
Look at what we could do!
Life! – look at how we could live!
Look at how love could rule....*

60-seconds of 10 x good news statistics - bright star bursts, smiling emojis etc. – all piling into each other in an upbeat blast of positivity, inter-cut with the host talking and gesticulating, the kids watching, smiling

1. TITLE: CLIMATE (1990 – 2020)
 - Cost of renewable- vs. fossil fuel-generated power show renewables getting cheaper
 - Energy efficiency across key sectors improving rapidly
2. TITLE: POPULATION (1950 – 2100)
 - Rate of Increase levelling off and stabilizing by end of century at around 10 Billion;
3. TITLE: QUALITY EDUCATION (1950 – 2020)
 - Primary & Secondary Enrolment - rising
 - Levels of Literacy upon graduation - rising
 - Male / Female enrolment in Primary & Secondary – becoming roughly the same
4. TITLE: ECONOMY (1990 – 2020)
 - No. of Business start-ups globally - rising
5. TITLE: HEALTH (1950 – 2020)
 - Graph shows No. of Doctors + No. of Hospitals / Clinics per 100K rising
 - No. of Maternal deaths per 1000 live births drop;
6. TITLE: PEACE (1900 – 2020)
 - No. of civil & Intl. wars – dropping
 - No. of people killed in wars – dropping
7. TITLE: GLOBAL COMMUNITY (1900 – 2020)
 - No. of Closed Borders – dropping
 - No. of UN Peace-keeping missions - rising
 - Quantity of Development Assistance to less-developed countries (in 2020 dollars) - rising
8. TITLE: CONNECTEDNESS / COMMUNICATIONS (1950 – 2020)
 - No. of people connected to stable electricity supply – rising

- No. of people connected to the Internet – rising
- No. of cell phones, radios & TVs by continent: ALL rising everywhere;

9. TITLE: FOOD SECURITY (1990 – 2020)

- No. of people becoming vegan or vegetarian - rising
- No. of people with sustainable access to food supplies – rising;

10. TITLE: POVERTY (1990 – 2020)

- Number of people living on less than \$1 a day – dropping
- Human Development Indices improving

The song ends triumphantly and the kids all clap – in relief. Then they all start speaking at once in Cacophony of questions: “What did that mean when.... / “Why do we spend all that money on weapons when there are so few wars.... / “What did we do... / “When is that going to run out... / “How did we....

The Actor / Host stops them.

Actor/Host: “OK! So – good news and bad news, right? And the reason you’re here today is to get your heads around this – so you really understand the condition of this old jalopy of a planet we find ourselves living on! But first we have to decide where we’re going? What is our Destination? What kind of world do you want to pass on to your children? Where do you want to be 50/60 years hence?”
(They look at him – a bit surprised by the question)

Actor/Host: “OK! So put it this way: what do you want to be when you grow up?”

Kid 1: Alive – if possible!

Kid 2: Don’t want to die young in some stoopid Pandemic!

Kid 3: - or get killed in a ridiculous war!

Kid 4: - or fried because we didn’t take care of the climate!

Actor/Host: “OK – Can all agree with that? *(They nod)* Good! What else?

All – *severally* – We all need Clean water! – food! Good housing! – Good health care! – Good education! – No poverty – inequality – Corruption! Women’s rights! – Rights for the Disabled! – End Racism! Black Lives Matter! Protect Biodiversity – Protect the Wilderness!! –

Actor/Host: OK! – so it’s a lot! But what’s the most important thing to get done FIRST?!

Kid 10: They’re all important...

Kid 5: Yeah! We’ve got to do all of them at the same time!

Actor/Host: Yes.... – we’re trying to do all of it at once! But what I’m getting at is: where do we start? We all agreed: we want to live – and in order to live, we have to have VALUES – patterns of behaviour that allow all of us to have a future, not just a few. No one left behind, right? You see where I’m headed?

Kid 6: No

Actor/Host: Take an obvious example: no one here thinks slavery is a good idea, do they? *(They shake their heads)* We agree that tearing down forests, vacuuming up all the fish in the ocean, making the planet so hot we can’t live there.... NOT a good idea, is it. *(They nod!)* So – that’s the future we DON’T want. Harder to imagine the kind of world we DO want – a world that meets all of our needs, that unites dozens of proud, independent nations, each with their different histories, faiths, cultures, habits, around one vision of Sustainability – and Goals to achieve that sustainability: that’s really hard! But that’s what we’re trying to do here! And all down through history – young people like you have helped us – telling stories, poems, songs about their visions. Like this one from Canada....

YOUTH STATEMENT



I am here to speak for all generations to come. I am here to speak on behalf of the starving children around the world whose cries go unheard. I am here to speak for the countless animals dying across this planet, because they have nowhere left to go.

I’m only a child, yet I know we are all part of a family -- five billion strong; in fact 30 million species strong -- and borders and governments will never change that. I’m only a child, yet I know we are all in this together and should act as one single world towards one single goal.

In Canada, we live the privileged life. Two days ago, here in Brazil, we were shocked when we spent time with some children living on the streets. This is what one child told us: "I wish I was rich and if I were, I would give all the street children food, clothes, medicines, shelter, and love and affection." If a child on the streets who has nothing is willing to share, why are we who have everything still so greedy? I am only a child, yet I know if all the money spent on war was spent on finding environmental answers to end poverty and in finding treaties, what a wonderful place this Earth would be.

[Severin Suzuki Cullis](#), Rio Earth Summit, 1992

SONG

Music fades up as she finishes, mixing into the song [Let's Make Peace](#):



*I know this world could die for ever – And people are the reason why
Children and parents, lovers and poets – They just can't hear our planet cry -
We want this world to survive for ever – And all the people join their hands together
In a bond of love, kindness and friendship – We'll make peace here with the earth*

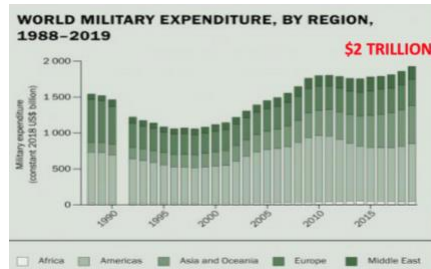
[Pawel Sydor](#), US Peace Child Tour, 1988

Through the song, we see images that reflect young people doing good, caring things – and having fun, playing sports, doing beach clean-ups, visiting old people, caring for each other; [animation](#): Spaceship Planet Earth smiles, floating serenely

* * *

Chapter TWO: **PEACE**

- Actor/Host: Get the picture! "Hands together!" "Peace with the Earth" "A family 30 billion species strong..." It all starts with Peace, right? Peace within ourselves – peace between each other – peace with the natural world.
- Kid 5: What does it actually mean, PEACE?
- Actor/Host: You tell me!
- Kid 6: Non-violence
- Kid 7: Kindness
- Kid 8: Serenity
- Kid 9: Caring
- Kid 10: Harmony
- Actor/Host: It's about all those things – that's what the UN's Sustainable Development Goals are seeking: to get all its member governments and ALL of YOU – the peoples! – to work peacefully and calmly together to meet everyone's basic needs. AND – to compete with each other to do it better, *more* sustainably, and to run fastest, jump highest, produce the best music, the funniest movies, the most delicious food - everything. We can have peaceful competition, can't we? (*They Nod*)
- Kid 1: Sure!
- Kid 2: But why do we need armies?
- Actor/Host: Because we always have!
- Kid 3: But what's the point of them?
- Actor/Host: Good question! Because the 193 member governments of this organisation don't trust each other. Though they all have their diplomats here all the time, relations between them are tense – and getting more tense. Look –



- How much they spend each year on the military (*Bar chart rises from 2000-2021*)
- Number of Closed Borders (*Graph snakes across the screen from 2000-2021*)
- Number of Ambassadors withdrawn (*Graph snakes across the screen from 2000-2021*)
- Number of trade wars & sanctions (*Graph snakes across the screen from 1980-2021*)
- Number of UN Peace-keeping missions (*Graph snakes across the screen from 1950-2021*)

WHY?

Kid 4 Because rich countries want to keep getting richer?

Kid 5 So poor countries have to stay poorer...

Actor/Host: Right! Inequality is a HUGE obstacle to Peace! We monitor [Social Progress](#) – as our main goal is to ensure that *No one is Left Behind*: so that everyone has their basic needs met plus the same basic human rights and life opportunities as everyone else. You need that for Peace, don't you?

Kid 6 Why?

Actor/Host: Well – Imagine how far you'd have got if you'd never had the chance to learn to read? [Look: \(DATA / GPE's Lost Potential Tracker – the numbers spin upwards\)](#): that's how many children reach their 10th Birthday without being able to read. That's not fair, is it?! (*They shake their heads in disbelief*)

Kid 7 No! But we could deal with all that if we didn't spend \$2 Trillion dollars a year on the military?

Kid 8 We wouldn't need to spend any of that if we had peace?!

Kid 9 Sure! We'd just need a small, planetary police force!

Kid 10 And we could get rid of all our scary nuclear weapons!

Kid 1 Yeah! Look at that! (*Graph comes up on the screen*) 14 thousand of those things and we know that if just one of them went off by accident, millions of people would die!



Visuals from [the Day After](#) (59:14-59:18) - people being vaporised, buildings exploding, forests & cities burning etc.

Actor / Host It's complicated.... Listen

UN GUIDANCE

<<- Statement / Explanation by UN Dept. for Peace Keeping - >>

The Actor/Host introduces an expert from the UN Dept. for Peace Keeping to explain how the UN invented the concept of Peace Keeping. How one of its first acts was to look into prohibiting nuclear weapons – and how it's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty succeeded in reducing the number of nuclear bombs from 70,000 to 13,890 today ([SIPRI](#)). S/he also talks about the TPNW – and the fact that the UN has undertaken several initiatives in the last 20 years to make nuclear weapons illegal. “But – we can only do what our member governments allow us to do – and the Permanent Five members of the Security Council seem pretty determined to hang on to their nuclear weapons, raise their military budgets, keep borders closed, and develop ever more dangerous and deadly weapons to kill people.. Look....”

<<- Recorded Statement by NATO Secretary General: “A world where China, Russia and North Korea have Nuclear Weapons and NATO does not is not a safer world....” ->>

<<- Recorded Statement by Chinese Government Official... ->>

<<- Recorded Statement by Vladimir Putin from his speech on Russia's new nuclear weapons ->>

<<- Recorded Statement by Boris Johnson on why the UK needs 80 more nuclear weapons ->>

YOUTH SONG

Music starts under last recorded statement – fade into young people singing: [Age of Violence](#)

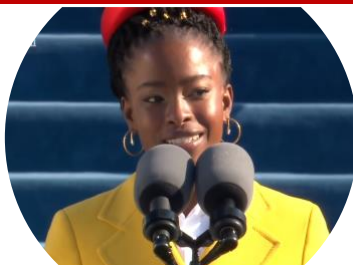


*In this Age of Violence and terror and sadness and tears
You have got to find a place, a place for yourself;
If you like you can hide, you can cry, you can pretend it's not there
But in the end, will that help anyone? Anyone? Anyone?*

*If you dare, I say Shout Out! – Do Something! – Scream! and Make a Fuss!
Be productive. Strong! Don't act selfish or tough;
But I say FIGHT! – FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT!!*

© [Voices United, Miami](#), USA, 2007

YOUTH STATEMENT



And yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine,
but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect.
We are striving to forge our union with purpose.
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colours, characters, and conditions of man.
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.
We close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside.
We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.
We seek harm to none and harmony for all.
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew.
That even as we hurt, we hoped.
That even as we tired, we tried.
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious.
Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.

© Amanda Gorman, [The Hill We Climb](#), USA, 2021

* * *

Chapter THREE: PANDEMICS

Kid 2 But we do sow division! Like we just saw: Inequality! ([Graphic: The OXFAM Bus](#))



Kid 3 The world's richest 80 people have as much money as the 4 Billion poorest on the planet!

Kid 4 Some have nukes – most don't!

Kid 5 Millions never even get the chance to learn to read!

Kid 6 Our world is riddled with divisions – whether any one sowed them or not.

Actor/Host: Yeah – but there are some things that tie us all together, aren't there?

Kid 7 Like what?

[Animation](#): *Spaceship Earth coughing as it bumps along through space*

Actor/Host: Pandemics?! No matter how rich or poor or powerful we are; no matter how many nukes we have – we can all catch the COVID!

Kid 8 That's what makes me so angry about all that money spent on Armies and Bombs!

Kid 9 Every dollar you spend on weapons is a dollar NOT spent on food or health or schools!

Kid 10 Things that contribute to LIFE not DEATH.

Kid 1: Things that CAN protect us!

Kid 2: Whole armies of nuclear weapons can't protect us from Pandemics!

Kid 3: NOTHING could.

Actor/Host: How do you know that? Why did a country like Taiwan or New Zealand have only a handful of deaths where countries like India and Brazil lost millions?

Kid 4 They had more doctors?

Kid 5 More hospitals...

Kid 6 More medicines....

Actor/Host: They may have had those things – but the real difference was that they were well-prepared. Every country should be: all through [history](#). Plagues and Pandemics have killed many more people than wars: the Black Death from 1346 to 1353 wiped out half of Europe. The native peoples of the Americas and Australasia were wiped out by European diseases not European bullets. The Spanish Flu killed 50 million – more than died in the First World War. We're still in the middle of one of the worst pandemics of all time – and it's not coronavirus! ([Graphic](#): *Woodcuts, pictures, videos*)

Kid 7 What?

Kid 8 Ebola?

Actor/Host: No. Ebola kills 90% of people who catch it but we contained it. Only 11,000 died.

Kid 9 That other flu – Bird flu?

Kid 10 Swine flu?

Actor/Host: No. Think! - HIV-AIDS. (*They all go: "Aaahh!"*) That's killed more than 35 million people in 35 years. It still kills about a million a year – mostly in Africa.

Kid 1 So – how do you stop them? – Any of them?

Actor/Host: You prepare: the World Health Organisation – the UN's Health Agency has very clear instructions for government on HOW they should do for every pandemic. Listen -

[<<- Statement / Explanation by UN World Health Organisation Officer- >>](#)

[Explains how governments need to spend more on defences against Pandemics which, in our lifetimes, will almost certainly invade us, rather than armies to defend us against military invasions which are extremely unlikely to....](#)

Y O U T H S O N G or S P E E C H

Music starts: Chic Streetman's [ONE EARTH](#) – or ?? New Song ??

Chapter FOUR: CLIMATE

Actor/Host: But Pandemics and disease aren't the worst threat to every living thing on earth now?

Kid 2 No

Kid 3 What could be worse than the Pandemic?

Kid 4 It closed down everything!

Actor/Host: Climate Change?

ALL KIDS Aaahhh!

Actor/Host: That's the big one your generation has to sort out in your lifetimes....

Kid 5 Why?

Kid 6 Yeah! Why is it so bad? I mean everyone's talking about it like the world's going to come to an end tomorrow – but the sun comes up, shops are open, we go to school...

Kid 7 So what's the big problem if it gets a bit warmer...?

Actor/Host: The Problem? Surely you all know....?

Kid 8 Tell us again!

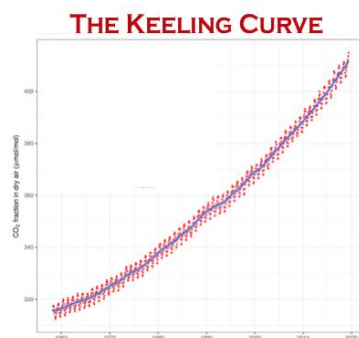
Actor/Host: Well, climate change means – ([Animation](#) of Spaceship Earth's surface illustrating each of these)

- More hurricanes, more fires, more floods causing billions of dollars of damage
- Sea levels rising and flooding trillions of dollars' worth of real estate in coastal areas;
- Parts of the world becoming literally too hot for anybody – any animal! – to live in
- Water basins drying up – droughts! – no fresh water for people, farms or industry
- Disease-bearing insects moving into industrialised countries
- Food crops shrivelling up....

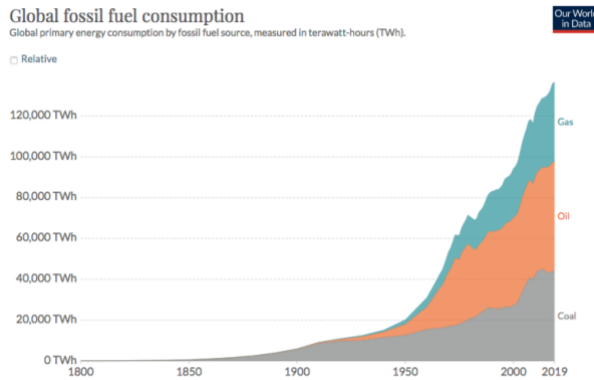
Everything – literally EVERYTHING! – would change and make life on earth impossible!

Kid 9 How do we stop it?

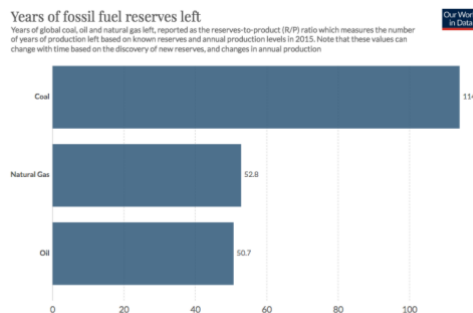
Actor/Host You stop this guy rising:



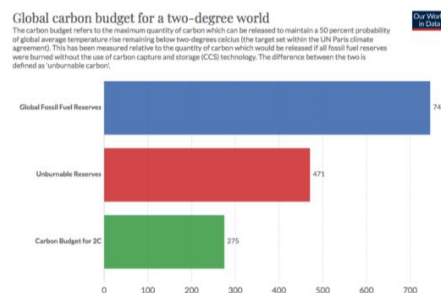
Actor/Host Which, in turn, means that you have to stop our fossil fuel consumption rising:



Actor/Host - and, as you can see, apart from coal consumption, that's been rising pretty fast! And here's the big problem: We have about 50 years' worth of Oil and Gas left – and over a hundred years' worth of coal:



Actor/Host But – because ALL our member governments promised in Paris to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees – we have to NOT burn 63% of it:



Kid 10 So why don't we just do that?

Kid 1 We have the solar panels and wind farms to make sustainable energy tomorrow!

Actor/Host Two reasons: The fossil fuel industry is a \$5 trillion dollar industry. If it was a country, it would be the 3rd biggest country in the world after the USA and China. Which makes them hard to push around and, as they're responsible for a huge chunk of almost every nation's tax revenue, few governments want to!

Second: it's easy to make promises at big UN meetings. Much harder to tell your voters: "Dump your cars / turn off your central heating or air conditioning / stop making steel or cement / pay higher carbon taxes...." As we saw with the Yellow Vests in France – people just won't. In Australia, they voted out the party that dared to suggest it!

Kid So – we're screwed!

Kid You're saying it's impossible? *(They start murmuring angrily...)*

Actor/Host Not impossible. Just very, very hard. The hardest thing we've probably ever had to do as a species. We have to get to Net Zero!

Kid 2 What's Net Zero?

Actor/Host It's where the amount of carbon we all put into the atmosphere is exactly equal to the amount of carbon the forests, the oceans and anything else we can invent pulls out of it.

- Kid 3 So – why can't we do that!?
- Kid 4 Tax the heck out of carbon so people emit less of it
- Kid 5 Subsidise the heck into renewable energy so people use more of that –
- Kid 6 - and subsidise the conservation of the oceans and the forests so that they absorb more carbon.
- Kid 7 Simple!
- Actor/Host You would have thought! BUT – even while governments were making those promises in Paris, far from imposing Carbon Taxes, most of them continued to subsidise fossil fuels to the tune of trillions of dollars a year! And far from writing off the fossil fuel reserves we know they cannot burn, the big oil and gas companies are spending billions of dollars prospecting for NEW oil reserves.
- Kid 8 So – we ARE screwed?!
- Kid 9 Why do governments want to make us all commit suicide?
- Kid 10 They don't see it like that: they think they're making us happier by helping us all buy bigger cars, make more money, have bigger, warmer houses!
- Actor/Host What would you do? *(They all look blank... one or two start to say something, then think better of it. Silence.)* It's hard, isn't it. Well – we have a whole team of people in Bonn, Germany working out solutions. Let's hear what they have to say:

<<- Statement / Explanation by UNFCCC Officer- >>

Explains how almost all UN member governments know that there's a problem – so they are working with each one of them individually to commit to lowering their country's carbon emissions. They call them: INDIVIDUAL NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (INDCS). That's what enabled the Paris agreements – much better than trying to get governments to obey international laws and prohibitions... Etc. + New ideas!

The kids question the UNFCCC officer – s/he answers. The dialogue could go on all night – and probably will – so fade up music. New Song – on Climate Change;

YOUTH SONG

EG: Billie Eilish: [All good girls go to Hell](#) (2:18 to 3:08) – or ?? New Song ??

Chapter FIVE: SOLUTIONS

YOUTH SPEECH

Alec Lorz – [Revolution](#) (7:12 to 9:23) (or "[Our Time has Come](#)")

New PEACE CHILD Story

The screen is filled with static as the Year counter spins round stopping at 2061: the Keeling Curve bends round and drops down as fast as it went up; forest cover and wild fish stocks start an upward curve from the 2020s. Nukes are at zero, military expenditures drop to single digit billions, school enrolment rises to 100%, Pandemic deaths – from AIDS, from COVID, from Ebola – all snake down to zero. Dominic Maffham, dressed in the cloak of a Storyteller, comes and sits on a stool on a small dais surrounded by a group of younger children. He opens a large story book and tells them a new Peace Child story....

"Once upon a time, back in the early part of this century, our world was in great danger. People knew it. Young People knew it: the I-Matter marches were in 2010 but not much happened! In 2015, UN Member Governments voted for the Sustainable Development Goals – promising to eliminate poverty, reverse climate change, create jobs, eliminate inequality – EVERYTHING! By 2030! But no one really got their heads around it. Greta Thunberg came along in 2018 and, in 2019, 4 million people in 161 countries joined her School Strike for Climate. She was feted everywhere from the United Nations to the US Congress to the European Parliament – Davos! Time Magazine made her it's 'Person of the Year!' – but still not much

happened! Still the \$5 trillion dollar oil, gas and coal industry pumped its poisons into our atmosphere, and fed our insatiable addiction to them. Still governments fed them Trillions of dollars in subsidies;

"Like all addicts, we knew that our addiction was killing us. All the science, all the journalists told us: even some politicians told us – but we seemed powerless against this great monster addiction that was steam-rolling us into oblivion!

"I was young back then... and slowly we, the young people, realized that we had power: a power that the old people driving that Steam Roller did NOT have. We had the power of time! 70-80 years left on this planet where they had less. Much less! And we realized: we had to use that time! NOW – before it was too late. What was the point of sitting meekly in classrooms, listening politely to teachers – writing essays and doing sums for them – passing all the tests they set us – when outside the world we were supposed to grow up and live on was dying before our eyes. They weren't telling us about that!

"We knew, of course! From the internet – from the news! But we didn't know what to do about it. Our parents drove us to school – made meals for us, kept the house warm. We weren't supposed to worry our pretty little heads about such things.

"But we did – and you must too. For we realized that it was not enough to protest and complain like Greta did: we had to learn what needed to happen – and make it happen. And what needed to happen was that ALL of us had to kick our fossil fuel addiction. Cold Turkey! To demand zero carbon emissions – zero carbon products. NOW! TODAY! IMMEDIATELY!

"Impossible!" said all the politicians and business leaders.

"Well make it possible!" we said.

And we refused to go to school. Refused to buy anything but Zero Carbon products. A Global – 100% 24/7 Youth Strike!! For our future! For our Survival. We explained to each other – and the politicians – that this was our *War of the Worlds*: we were being invaded from another planet – a planet inside our minds. And we had to fight that psychosis in our minds – our addictions, our blindness, our carelessness. It was OBVIOUS what we had to do and – as we were almost all connected to the internet, and some enlightened government leaders helped us, we spread the fight around the world. For – IF we agreed to fight together, NOT to fight against each other, we could use all the money we spent on armies, ships and planes and navy warships on developing a new green energy system. And that's how we could save ourselves and our poor old Spaceship Planet Earth.....

"But - there were still a lot of very clever, very bad people in our world. People who don't seem to care if they kill millions of other people. People who said that pandemics are just a "case of the sniffles!" – people who denied that Climate Change was actually happening! Yes! – there were government leaders who actually said those things – and millions of people believed them and voted for them!

"Not many young people, though, and by the mid 2020s, we were on a roll: everywhere – young people were refusing to go to school. Schools were closing. Gas stations were closing because young people were refusing to allow their parents to fill their cars; Food stores and supermarkets were hysterically promoting "Zero Carbon Products!" We didn't believe them and kept outing products that had carbon elements within them. We boycotted all electric companies that generated power from fossil fuels. We charged our phones and laptops from solar panels – we spent long days on the internet, encouraging each other – making little videos on our mobile phones on how to live sustainably. We laid out plans for how we were going to get food and jobs in a Green New Deal that ended our fossil fuel addiction completely and built a carbon Net Zero economy.

"We had no leaders! We had influencers – teachers, professors, actors, rock stars and some government leaders. They helped us and encouraged us. But our power came from our solidarity: we knew what we were doing was right! We had to kick our addiction to fossil fuels. Consuming Fossil Fuels was a Death Wish! And we were NOT about to commit suicide!

"Our parents and government leaders didn't know what to make of us! The world they had lovingly created for us to grow up in we had rudely thrown back in their faces: we didn't mean to be rude but we felt that learning how to survive was a bit more important than writing a History essay, or doing a Math test – or learning French or Japanese!

"We argued that what we were doing was all about "Security" – and that *our* security would not be based on military strength but on our values: our friendships, our caring for each other and the natural world that we all share. We realized that not all people are perfect: that there are some bad apples – really bad apples – and that sometimes those bad apples get into positions of power when they should really be in prison. But most of us grow up, fall in love, have children and love them unconditionally. That unselfishness – that truthfulness, that caring is what we need to survive as a planetary family. That's what we learned from each other: selflessness. Caring. What love means. What real Security is.

"So finally, they invited some of us to the UN Security Council – to explain what exactly we wanted them to do. So we told them: "Do whatever it takes to get to Net Zero carbon emissions immediately. Prosecute any individual or company that produces, sells or uses Fossil Fuels! Send them to Jail! Impose trillion dollar fines on them. Get everyone to go Cold Turkey on our Fossil Fuel Addiction NOW! All of us. TODAY!"

"Of course, they said it was impossible. So we sat them down – right there in the UN and told them: "Make it possible!" We told them: "In 2015, you voted for the Sustainable Development Goals which promised many things – especially to 'take urgent action to combat climate change....' So all we're asking you to do is to keep your promise!" It was the strangest negotiation the UN had ever seen: there was them in their smart suits and designer dresses – diplomats determined to "represent their country's interests whatever the cost....!" And us: a bunch of kids in our jeans and T-shirts – concerned only with our survival. And we told them, quietly, gently and respectfully – that if they didn't want to commit mass murder against their children and grand-children, this was what they had to do.

"They said the UN didn't have the power to send people to jail. But we pointed out that the International Court in the Netherlands had the power to send war criminals to jail and they'd only killed a few thousand people. Those who fed our Fossil Fuel addiction had killed millions already and were poised to kill hundreds of millions more. We knew we were right -

they knew we were right! It was a no-brainer so we told them they had no brains – or at least no hearts! – if they were prepared to let it drift for another 40 years. It was difficult – really difficult. But, one by one, we persuaded them. And one by one, they went back to their governments and persuaded them to pass the laws to get us off the addiction. And it was done! Our fatal addiction was cured.

“Once we’d done that – all kinds of wonderful things started to happen! New factories sprang up in every country making plant based and cell-grown foods: no longer did we kill animals for food – because we could grow it cheaper! Forests started growing again; fishing industries transitioned into safe fish farming and hydroponic plant farms.

“Our current system of online global multi-lingual schooling finally delivered Quality Education for All. Digital Doctors created partnerships across the world that delivered Health for All. And so – the Sustainable Development Goals were achieved – and exceeded! It took a few years longer – but it was wonderful! And though it was sad to see the rusting hulks of oil rigs, tankers and gas stations – we soon replaced them with homes and schools and hospitals.

“New inventions were everywhere – hydrogen planes; vast sailing ships, and air ships, powered by solar panels carrying trade around the world. It was a green renaissance – and we were all the beneficiaries. It was a marvelous time to be alive – to be growing up, and falling in love and bringing our own children into the world.

“For it was a world at peace – a world driven by love. Love of each other, love of ourselves, our values, our integrity – and most of all, love of our beautiful, glorious planet. Every insect – every blade of grass – every drop of water – all was precious to us. And it must be to you. For – in your lives – you will meet bad apples: People who offer you new addictions – to alcohol, to gambling and many other temptations. We all face them! But – together – by loving and caring for each other, we can defeat them. And we can pour money into the only investment worth making: the happiness of our children and grandchildren.”

Chapter SIX: **NEXT YEAR**

- Kid 1: So – is that it?
- Kid 2: Is that how it happened?
- Kid 3: It’s not 2061 yet
- Actor/Host: It’s not! But here in the UN, we do “Scenario Building” – telling ourselves the stories of how we create the Future we all want. And that’s what we’ve been doing today...
- Kid 4: But we haven’t even talked about some of the biggest problems coming at us in our lifetimes!
- Kid 5: Poverty!
- Kid 6: Inequality!
- Kid 7: The fact that 80 people on a London bus have more money than FOUR Billion poor people.
- Kid 8: What about Human Rights!?
- Kid 9: How we stop soil erosion!?
- Kid 10: How we support refugees!?
- Kid 1: How we get rights for the disabled!?
- Kid 2: Climate change isn’t our only problem!
- Actor/Host: But it may be the biggest. And every year – you must come back here and see how we’re doing – because, if we go on as we are – without that Revolution – things will get a whole lot worse.
– will you come back next year? (*They nod*)
– will you write me some new songs? (*They nod*)
– some new poems and speeches? (*They nod*)
– some new “Scenarios” for how we’re going to solve all these problems in your lifetime?
- All: Sure! – ‘course we will! (*severally – murmurs of agreement*)
- Kid 3: It’s important.
- Actor/Host: Thank you. Do them in your own language for your own people: we can share them. Base them on the data we hold here in the EMC: any one can access it any time online. But, though we can gather data and create scenarios in this building – YOU have to live them. For it will be YOU – in your lifetimes – who get to choose if we survive as a species or go the way of the dinosaurs!
- Kid 4: We can survive!
- Actor/Host: I think we can.
- All: (*Softly - thoughtfully*) Yes!

YOUTH SPEECH



Education went from being a right to being a crime. Girls were stopped from going to school. I had two options. One was to remain silent and wait to be killed. And the second was to speak up and then be killed. I chose the second one. I decided to speak up. We could not just stand by and see those injustices of the terrorists denying our rights, ruthlessly killing people and misusing the name of Islam. We decided to raise our voice and tell them: Have you not learnt, have you not learnt that in the Holy Quran Allah says: if you kill one person it is as if you kill the whole of humanity? Do you not know that Mohammad, peace be upon him, the prophet of mercy, says, "do not harm yourself or others". And do you not know that the very first word of the Holy Quran is the word "Iqra", which means "read"?" [Malala Yousafzai](#), Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech, 2019

Music starts

FINALE SONG

This is the future we all want
Let's sit down and plan it through
And if you cannot see it happ'ning -
Bring children with you...

It makes no difference who's to blame
Fact is – our time is almost gone!
We had our chance! We made our plays!
What matters is what we do from now on

One world! – it's all of our's to share
It's all that we hold dear
Our future's here

One world! – it is our only home!
It gives us all we need
We must treasure it - tenderly

The deck is stacked against our hand
The road is steep, no time to rest
We see the future in our dreams
We cannot settle for less

This is the future we all want
A new world for all to share
Though hard to realize
We can't go back from here

One world! – it's all of our's to share
It's all that we hold dear
Our lives are here!

One world! – it is our only home!
It gives us all we need
We must treasure it - tenderly

Choruses repeated

* * *

THE END