

## TRANSLATION

Ang: Tilbage til fremtiden

Din e-mail omkring din frygt for at skulle tilbage til skolen fik mig virkelig til at grine. Kan du virkelig efter alle disse år som lærer stadig være lige så angst for det nye skoleår, som du var, dengang du sad på den anden side af katederet? Uanset hvad er jeg smigret over, at du bad om min hjælp til at finde på idéer til et skægt projekt, du kan lave med dine 3.G'ere. Her er ét, jeg lavede med mine egne elever i slutningen af sidste år. Vi var i gang med at diskutere alle de forfærdelige ting, der sker alle vegne, og at alt står i flammer osv. Eftersom elevernes generation er den såkaldte snefnugs- eller tusindårsgeneration, og snefnug har evnen til at slukke ild, bad jeg dem lave en fremlæggelse om, hvordan unge mennesker kan ændre og faktisk ændrer verden (positivt, naturligvis!).

Som man nok ville forvente, var Greta Thunberg det første navn, der lød fra de flestes munde. (Min computer bliver ved med automatisk at rette hendes navn til 'Great Thunberg', hvilket er et tydeligt tegn på kunstig intelligens, hvis du spørger mig!) Det er utroligt, hvordan en 15-årig så hurtigt kunne gå fra at være helt ukendt til at være så omtalt et navn inden for klimaaktivisme. Det gav mig virkelig håb for fremtiden at høre så mange af eleverne snakke om hendes skolestrejke, og at den inspirerer dem til at gøre en indsats imod klimakrisen. Hendes budskab om, at man aldrig er for ung til at gøre en forskel, lader virkelig til at have gjort et indtryk. Det minder mig om det der afrikanske ordsprog, der siger "Hvis du tror, du er for lille til at gøre en forskel, har du aldrig tilbragt natten i et værelse med en myg".

Der var også nogle andre interessante fremlæggelser. Én af eleverne fortalte om Boyan Slat, den hollandske teenager, der designede et system, der skal kunne rydde havet for plastik. Vidste du, at han kun var 16, da han kom på den idé, og kun 19, da han stiftede firmaet 'The Ocean Cleanup' og fik folk til at bidrage til sin kampagne i forsøg på at redde plastikforureningen. De er åbenbart i gang med at afprøve en prototype i den store affaldsdyngne i Stillehavet.

En anden fremlæggelse omhandlede det, at den dengang 14-årige rumænske gymnast Nadia Comaneci - den første gymnast i olympisk historie, der fik tildelt den perfekte score på 10,0 point for sin optræden - i 1976 banede vejen for nutidens Simone Biles og hendes ufattelige olympiske rutiner. Selvom jeg dog ikke er sikker på, om det tæller som ligefrem fremtidsafgørende, eller om det var lidt af en overdrivelse.

SOURCE TEXT

RE: Back to the Future

Your e-mail about dreading going back to school really cracked me up. After all these years you've been a teacher, surely you can't still be dreading the start of the new school year as much as you did when you were on the other side of the desk? Anyway, I'm flattered you asked to pick my brains for ideas for a fun project to do with your senior students. Here's one I did with my lot at the end of last year. We were discussing all the terrible things happening everywhere and how everything is on fire, etc. Seeing as the students' generation is the so-called 'snowflake' or 'millennial' generation, and snowflakes have the power to put out fire, I asked them to give a presentation on how young people can and do change the world (for the better, of course!).

As you might expect, Greta Thunberg was the first name on most lips. (My computer keeps autocorrecting her name to 'Great Thunberg', which is a sure sign of artificial intelligence if you ask me!) It's hard to believe that a 15-year old could go from an unknown to a household name for climate activism so quickly. It gave me such hope for the future to hear so many of the students talking about her school strike and how it's inspiring them to take action to combat the climate crisis. Her message that you are never too small to make a difference seems to have really struck a chord. It reminds me of that African proverb that says, 'If you think you are too small to make a difference, you have never spent the night in a room with a mosquito'.

There were some other interesting presentations as well. One student talked about Boyan Slat, the Dutch teenager who designed a system to clean up ocean plastic. Did you know he was only 16 when he came up with that idea and just 19 when he founded 'The Ocean Cleanup' company and got people to fund his campaign to try to turn the tide on plastic pollution? Apparently they're currently trialling a prototype in the Great Pacific garbage patch.

Another presentation talked about how back in 1976 the then 14-year old Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci - the first gymnast in Olympic history to be awarded the perfect score of 10.0 points for her performance - paved the way for today's Simone Biles with her ground-breaking Olympic routines. Though I'm not sure if that counts as literally shaping the future or was a bit of a stretch!