

Dear students,

Soon you will be coming to see our play WE SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL. The play is about two 11- year-old friends, Clara and Ben. They go to an English speaking international school.



There are four themes in the play:

friendship	Freundschaft
climate change	Klimawandel
empowerment	Selbstbemächtigung um das Gefühl der Macht- und Einflusslosigkeit zu überwinden
politics	Politik

FRIENDSHIP

Ben likes Clara because she is courageous*. She feels strongly about the environment*. Clara goes to climate change demonstrations. One day, Ben goes to a big climate change demonstration with Clara. Ben and Clara should be in school. They get into trouble for skipping school and have to stay back after school. Clara is impatient* because politicians are only talking and not changing things fast enough. Clara and Ben decide to break into a climate change conference to tell politicians to act now. Suddenly Clara is famous. She becomes an influencer and has no time for Ben anymore. Their friendship is in danger but they manage to stay friends. Happy End!

*mutig *Umwelt *ungeduldig

CLIMATE CHANGE

Divide into groups of four. Discuss.

What do the words “climate change” mean?

Quiz question. What happens because of global warming? Mark the right answers

- A) sea levels rise
- B) there is more drinking water
- C) mountain glaciers shrink, get smaller
- D) people don't get colds anymore
- E) ice melts at a faster rate than usual in Greenland, Antarctica and the Arctic
- F) there are changes in flower and plant blooming times

Does global warming affect your life? How?

ACTIVITY: Decide on an English slogan about climate change with your class. Make a protest sign. **Bring it with you to the play.**

ACTIVITY: What are the small things we can do to slow down global warming?

Split into groups of four. Invent a scene and perform it in the classroom.

Think of a family situation related to climate change, e.g. saving electricity, trying to



convince somebody in your family to become vegetarian, using bicycles, buses and trains instead of driving the car

POLITICAL CHANGE AND EMPOWERMENT

Classroom discussion: Who is in this foto? What do you know about this person?

You may like to look at this web site

<https://fridaysforfuture.org>

“The adults are making a big mess of the environment. We children will have to live with this mess. This is unfair.”

Discuss this statement.



Politics

How can children tell politicians what they think?
If you want to change things in your school what do you?

Vocabulary

Here are some words from our play. Some you may already know.



to blush	rot werden
to break in	einbrechen
to burn (e.g. coal, gas)	verbrennen
carbon emissions	der Kohlendioxidausstoß/ Emission
celebrity crush	der Prominentenschwarm
climate conference	die Klimakonferenz
to crash a conference	eine Konferenz zu stürmen
to destroy	zerstören
dumb	dumm
eco warriors	Öko-Krieger
emergency	der Notfall
environment	die Umwelt
to finish something	etwas beenden
to fix something	etwas reparieren
to get distracted	abgelenkt werden
global warming	weltweite Erwärmung
to hang out with someone	mit jmd. abhängen
to ignore/ be ignored	Ignorieren, ignoriert werden
to invite someone	jemanden einladen
naughty	unartig, böse
packaging	die Verpackung
politician	der die Politiker*in
to pollute, pollution	verschmutzen, die Verschmutzung,
power in your voice	in deiner Stimme liegt Macht

pressure	der Druck
to protest	protestieren
to punish	jmd. bestrafen
rainforest	der Regenwald
reaction gif	das Reaktionsgif
responsibility	die Verantwortung
risky	riskant
scientist	der die Wissenschaftler*in
serious	ernst (Adjektiv)
should /shouldn't	sollte, solltest nicht
to shut up	den Mund halten
to skip school	to skip school
sponsor	der Sponsor/ die Sponsor*in
the system	das politische System
to tell the truth	die Wahrheit sagen
to unbox something	etw. auspacken
wombat	der Wombat

Here is a scene from our play WE SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL: Please read in a group of three - one reads Clara, one reads Ben, one reads the stage instructions (kursive Texte)

Ben And then Clara became a green influencer.

Clara brings on a ring light. She sets up the ring light and brings a large box on stage. Her phone buzzes. She looks at it. Does not answer the call.

Clara Hello, my Eco Warriors! Clara here.

She isn't happy with her sentence and style. She tries again.

Clara Hello, my Eco Warriors! Clara here.

She tries again.

Clara Hello, my Eco Warriors! Clara here. Today, I thought I would do an unboxing video. So, let's get to it!

She opens the box.

Clara It's ... another box!

She feels inside.

Clara Let's see what's inside. It's ... another box! Let's see what's inside. It's ... another box!

Ben enters. He is holding a sign. He watches Clara, unnoticed.

Clara Let's see what's inside. It's ... another box! Let's see what's inside! It's ... a green paper—

She sees Ben in the frame of the video.

Clara Ben! What are you doing?

Ben Hello.

Clara Sorry, just ... That take is ruined. (*Take=Aufnahme)

Clara quickly reassembles the boxes.

Ben Um ... Hi. So I'm not sure if you've listened to my voicemails. But I've been doing a lot of reading on climate change. I even finished the protest song.

Ben starts strumming the ukulele.

Clara Get out of the frame.

Ben stops playing. He takes a step to the side.

Clara Hello, my Eco Warriors. Clara here. Let's do an unboxing.

She opens the box.

Clara What's inside? Another box. Another box. Another box.

Ben steps into the frame.

Clara Ben!

Ben What are you doing?

Clara What does it look like? I'm trying to save the planet.

Ben How?

Clara It's for one of my sponsors. They're a really good company. Very green.

Ben But ... this is so much packaging.

Clara So much *green* packaging.

Ben Okay. So, anyway, I'm really proud of this.

He strums again. The reboxing is done. Clara pushes Ben out of frame.

Clara Move. I can't, just—not right now. Hello, my Eco Warriors! Clara here. Let's do some unboxing.

She takes off the first box.

Clara What's inside? It's another box.

Ben picks up the box.

Ben This doesn't look green.

Clara Ben! Put that back!

Ben I can't! It's a solar-powered train and it's leaving the station! Hop on board!

Ben starts to play.

Clara Stop being a child!

Ben allows the box to drop.

Clara This is my job right now. It's important. I'm helping people learn about green companies.

Ben Clara ... I think they are using you.

Preparation materials for „We Should Be in School“

Clara Excuse me?

Ben Look at all this mess.

Clara For every box they donate two cents to planting trees ... somewhere.

Ben Well that's good. Because making these boxes must've taken a whole forest.

Clara I don't need this right now. If you only came to make fun of me you can leave.

Ben I wasn't. I was just ... Are you okay?

Clara Yes. I'm just ... busy. Trying to save the world.

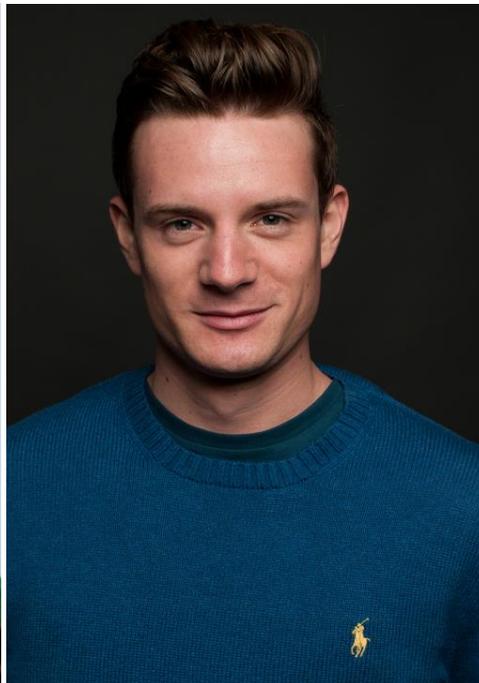
We hope that this preparation paper will help you in understanding our play.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Scollin and the Platypus Team



Ona Nurkkala (Clara)



Florian Korty (Ben)

Please write your feedback or questions to

peter@platypus-theater.de

We will write back!