



When Will There Finally Be Peace?

48 pages, 23 xc 30 cm, ages 7+

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by Elisabeth Raffauf, with illustrations by Günther Jakobs

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What does Peace mean?

Have you ever thought about what peace means? For those who have always lived as protected and safe as we do, war is far away and peace is taken for granted. It is normal that we can just walk freely on the street, play, shop, without having to think about whether anything could happen.

Without having to look around to see if someone hostile is following us. Without having to constantly count on an alarm siren signaling us to get to safety quickly. Peace means a life without fear. In this first meaning, peace means that there is no war, that people live together without fighting or even killing each other. For many people, peace means more than the absence of war: for example, that they are free and not oppressed, by the state or by other people. Hunger and poverty also tend not to be peaceful living conditions. They can prevent peace. For then there must be a constant struggle for survival. Peace also means that things are fair and that no one has to be afraid of being treated badly because of the color of their skin, their religion, their language or their gender. And peace means equal opportunities for boys and girls.

Children who, for example, experience constant violent quarrels between or with their parents do not live in peace. Peace also means having parents who are as a general rule affectionate with each other and with their children.

What does War mean?

War, that sounds short and hard. And it is hard. Short, unfortunately, not always. If you are lucky and grow up in a peaceful country free of serious conflicts, then you have not heard the word "war" so often and cannot imagine what it actually means. War means that disputes between individual

groups or countries are no longer settled with words, but with violence, and especially with weapons. Quite a lot is destroyed in the process. People are killed, houses, streets and entire cities are destroyed. There are different types of wars, depending on who starts the war, why it is fought and which groups are at war with each other. In wars of aggression, the rulers of one country decide to attack another country. They then order their soldiers to invade that country, and to send bombs and missiles. In the case of defensive wars, it is different. There, the decision is made to defend oneself in the event of an attack and not to surrender directly.

And there are also civil wars. For example, hostile groups of a country fight against each other, perhaps because they claim a certain area for themselves. Or an armed group of one's own country fights against one's own government and its army, because they possibly want to depose the government in order to then take over power themselves.

The book treats these and other questions:

- What is a soldier?
- What happens when a war begins?
- Why is there war?
- How long does a war take?
- What is a terrorist or terrorism?
- How do people whose country are at war live?
- How do people whose government has started a war feel?
- Why do people shoot other people?
- What do I do if I see two children from countries that are at war get into a fight at school?
- Are there rules to war?
- What are the UN and what is their purpose?