

**THERE IS
NO LIFE
ON OTHER
PLANETS**

Collected here are interviews
with Palestinian children living
in the West Bank and Gaza.

Roai, 15 years old
Khan Younis Refugee Camp, Gaza

Interviewed by Abeer A.

Tell me a good joke.

The girl asked her mom, "What should I do?" The mom said, "Go watch TV." The girl said, "But they cut the electricity." The mom said, "So, take a candle."

Tell me everything you did yesterday in detail.

I got up, went to school, came home, helped my mom and my dad, played for a little bit, watched TV and went to bed.

Tell me a funny story about something that happened to you.

We were taking a test in school in the computer room. The screens were somehow switched. What I typed came up on my friend's screen, and what he typed came up on my screen.

Tell me a sad story about something that happened to you.

My friend's mom and her brother died in the war.

What do you think of Americans?

I don't think they like us.

Is there life on other planets? If so, what is it like?

There is no life anywhere else.

What kind of animal would you be if you had to be one? Why?

A gazelle because it's beautiful.

What's the most important thing ever invented?

The computer.

What would you do if you were president?

Give money to people so that they can rebuild their houses.

What question would you like to ask an American kid your age?

How do you feel when you see us dying in the war?

What will you be doing in 20 years?

Traveling.

Where did the Earth come from?

It was created by God.

Do you remember any of your dreams when you sleep? Tell me one.

I dreamt that rockets fell on our house.

What do you do on a perfect day?

Help my mom and play outside.

What's your favorite food?

Shawarma.

What advice would you give your parents?

Take care of yourselves and don't get too tired working.

Abd Al Nasser, 11 years old

Kafr 'Aqab, West Bank

Interviewed by Lana T.

Tell me everything you did yesterday in detail.

As always, I woke up, went to school, and then went home. I took a nap, had dinner, studied, played with my friend, and then slept.

Tell me a funny story.

I went to a restaurant with my friends, and we ordered chicken fingers. One of my friends put sugar instead of salt on the salad. We ate it and didn't even notice.

Tell me sad story.

One time I fell on my leg at school and broke it.

Is there pain?

A little. I do physiotherapy now.

What kind of animal would you be if you had to be one?

A bird. I had a bird once, but it died.

What question would you like to ask an American kid your age?

I can't speak English, but I would just ask, "What's your name?"

What's the most important thing ever invented?

The oven so we can cook.

What's your favorite food?

Everything.

What food do you dislike?

I hate the empty dish.

What advice would you give your parents?

To my mom: don't work too much and get tired.

What do you want to study?

I want to be a lawyer.

A lawyer, why?

Life is unfair.

How is that? Give me an example.

There are people who go to bed without eating anything and others who only eat one meal a day.

Dania, 8 years old
Khan Younis Refugee Camp, Gaza

Interviewed by Abeer A.

Tell me a good joke.

The goat asked her mom, "Where is my daaaaaad?"
And the mom said, "Your daaaaaad was sold."

Tell me a funny story about something that happened to you.

We were in a school play, and I had fun.

Tell me a sad story about something that happened to you.

When my sister, Isra, traveled during the war. I was very scared.

What do you think of Americans?

They are normal people just like us.

Is there life on other planets? If so, what is it like?

There is no life on other planets.

Why do some people have more money than others?

They were born rich.

If you could be an animal, what would you be?

A cat because cats are cuddly.

What is the weirdest thing you ever saw?

The war.

What's the most important thing ever invented?

Cell phones.

What would you do if you were president?

Solve people's problems. Give money to people so that they can rebuild their houses.

What question would you like to ask an American kid your age?

Are you happy in your country?

What will you be doing in 20 years?

I will be a doctor.

Where did the Earth come from?

From God.

Do you remember any of your dreams when you sleep?

Tell me one.

I dreamt that there was a rocket coming at us.

What do you do on a perfect day?

Go to summer camp.

What's your favorite food?

Chocolate.

What advice would you give your parents?

Live a happy life.

**Najawa, 13 years old,
Bureij Refugee Camp, Gaza**

Interviewed by Abeer A.

Tell me a good joke.

A teacher asks the student, “Do you know if India is far away?” The student replies, “I don’t think so. We have an Indian student in our class, and he rides his bicycle to school.”

Tell me another good joke.

A teacher asks a kid to name three animals that can give us milk. The kid replies, “Three cows.”

Tell me everything you did yesterday in detail.

I got up, washed my face, and prayed. After that I took my allowance and ran to school because we are always late. When we came back from school, my dad made us lunch because my mom was at work. After that, we did our homework, played, watched TV, ate dinner, then went to bed.

Tell me a funny story about something that happened to you.

I bought a bottle of Coke, and I won another bottle of Coke.

Tell me a sad story about something that happened to you.

I heard that my friend’s house was bombed. When I asked in school, I found out that she lost her leg.

What do you think of Americans?

They give money to Israel, and Israel buys rockets with it.

Is there life on other planets? If so, what is it like?

No, I don’t think there is life on other planets.

What kind of animal would you be if you had to be one? Why?

A cow because it gives us milk.

What is the weirdest thing you ever saw?

Once, on TV, I watched a fifteen story tower in Gaza fall to the ground in seconds.

What would you do if you were president?

I would prevent anybody in the world from getting rockets, and I would spread peace.

What question would you like to ask an American kid your age?

How would you feel if you suddenly lost your mom, your dad, your brothers, your house, and you were living on the street?

What will you be doing in 20 years?

I will be a doctor.

Where did the earth come from?

God created it so that we can do good on it. On the day of Judgment, we will be asked about what we did.

Do you remember any of your dreams when you sleep?

I always dream that I have a test, and I didn't study for it.

What do you do on a perfect day?

Go to the beach and take our grandparents with us.

What scares you?

One time my dad was not at home, and we had to hide from rocket attacks. We were so scared that we begged my uncle to call our dad. He called and talked to him. Later we found out that he had actually just called one of his friends to calm us down.

What advice would you give your parents?

Please bring us gifts and increase our allowance.

**Nasrallah, 13 years old
Bethlehem, West Bank
Interviewed by Lana T.**

Tell me a joke.

A tall guy marries a tall woman, they have baby, the baby sells gum to airplanes.

Tell me everything you did yesterday in detail.

I woke up early, took a shower, and prayed. Then I went to school, took my lunch (maftoul





and couscous), and went home. Then I went to a friend's house and didn't find him, so I played football alone. After that I prayed, looked at my Facebook account and had dinner. And then I brushed my teeth, prayed and fell into a deep sleep. I have a good memory.

Tell me a funny story about something that happened to you in school.

A week ago I had an exam. I didn't study for it, but I passed it with a full mark.

What's the most important thing ever invented?

Electricity because without electricity, there would be no Internet or Facebook.

If you had a chance to be president, what would you do?

I would be president of Palestine so we can get some peace here.

Sary, 13 years old
Ramallah, West Bank
Interviewed by Lana T.

Tell me good joke.

A guy was sleeping with his glasses on. People asked him why he does that and he said, "To see my dream in 3D."

Tell me everything you did yesterday in detail.

I went to school. When I came back from school, I was soaking wet because of the rain. I put on my home clothes, and then I ate lunch and did my homework. After I finished homework, I played on my laptop and watched a Kwebbel Kop video while eating my dinner. Then I went to sleep.

Tell me a funny story about something that happened to you.

When we went to the Ramat Gan Zoo in Israel and my friend got pulled inside the cage by a monkey. We all burst out laughing because the monkey was licking and biting him.

Tell me a sad story about something that happened to you.

I had a YouTube channel with 258 subscribers. I uploaded hacks and gameplays on it. But one day I uploaded a video about Gaza, and then my account was suspended for 10 days by Israel. When I realized this, I started crying and cursing Israel and YouTube. Now I use another channel, but I'm not really active on it because I lost hope.

What do you think of Americans?

85 percent of Americans are gross because they drink a lot of alcohol. There are a lot of gangs and drugs. 90 percent of them support Israel.

What question would you like to ask an American kid your age?

I would ask what they know about Palestine and what they know about Israel. Then I'd say, "Which one is supposed to be the country?"

Is there life on other planets? If so, what is it like?

Yes, there is. It's a better world with better technology. They reached us 2,000 years ago and communicated with ancient Egyptians and landed on top of Jerusalem and left faster than light speed. We can't even figure out if they exist.

Where did the Earth come from?

Earth is part of the sun.

Why do some people have more money than others?

People with money get a better education. So when they grow up, they get better jobs. It is an unequal and unfair life.

What kind of animal would you be if you had to be one? Why?

An eagle because then I could fly, and I would be the predator.

What is the weirdest thing you ever saw?

Once a school boy got shot and killed by Israelis. The Palestinian president did nothing.

What's the most important thing ever invented?

Electricity.

What would you do if you were president?

I would try to build a free country that is powerful in the sciences.

What is scary to you?

What the future holds.

What will you be doing in 20 years?

I will study abroad so I can work at an electronic company like Sony, Samsung, Apple or Facebook.

Do you remember any of your dreams when you sleep?

Tell me one.

Yes, I jumped off a building, and with my super powers I could fly.

What do you do on a perfect day?

Sit down... and do nothing.

What's your favorite food?

Pizza.

What advice would you give your parents?

In any situation, put yourself in your child's shoes.

Raghd, 9 years old

Bureij Refugee Camp, Gaza

Interviewed by Abeer A.

Tell me a good joke.

I don't have any; nobody tells me jokes.

Tell me everything you did yesterday in detail.

I woke up and got dressed. I took a sandwich and my allowance to school. I had a lot of classes. After that, I went home and ate lunch. After lunch, I went to tutoring, then I went to my grandparents' house for a little bit.

Tell me a funny story about something that happened to you.

I was walking, and I fell down and cut my dress. My friends started laughing, so I laughed also.

Tell me a sad story about something that happened to you.

When the war started, my mom and dad weren't home; they were traveling. I was very scared.

What do you think of Americans?

They don't really help us, and they always take Israel's side.

Is there life on other planets? If so, what is it like?

Yes, there is a planet with flowers and toys; it doesn't have any soldiers or wars.

Why do some people have more money than others?
Everybody earns what they have worked hard for.
My mom and dad went to university and got jobs.

What kind of animal would you be if you had to be one? Why?

I wish that I were a butterfly with pretty colors so that I can fly in the sky and see all the beautiful things in the world. The only problem is that butterflies are weak.

What is the weirdest thing you've ever seen?

I saw a family whose entire house was destroyed, but they were not hurt.

What's the most important thing ever invented?

Medicine and medical equipment because it helps save people.

What would you do if you were president?

I would defend Gaza and give money to the poor and needy.

What are you worried about?

I'm worried that the war will come back again for the fourth time.

What question would you like to ask an American kid your age?

If your friend died, would you cry like us?





Naghm

What will you be doing in 20 years?
I will be a doctor to help the injured.

Do you remember any of your dreams when you sleep?
Once I dreamt that I went to school without shoes.

What do you do on a perfect day?
Go out with my family on a picnic.

What's your favorite food?
Macaroni.

What advice would you give your parents?
Please don't ever leave without us again.

Naghm, 11 years old
Bethlehem, West Bank
Interviewed by Lana T.

Do you know what your name means?
Melody.

What do you watch on TV?
Cartoons.

What's the most important thing ever invented?
The incandescent light bulb.

Why is it the most important?

Because after the light bulb, there was no more darkness in the world.

What do you want to be in the future?

A pediatric doctor.

Why?

I love children.

What do you do on a perfect day?

Visit our grandmother. My perfect day is Friday.

What is scary to you?

Cats.

What kind of animal would you be if you had to be one?

A fish because I want to learn how to swim.

Ibtihal, 11 years old

Aida refugee camp next to Bethlehem, West Bank
Interviewed by Mar Senda

Tell me a good joke.

Hmmm... [she thinks for a while] Okay, I know one. The Palestinian Authority [PA] goes to visit Obama, but when they arrive at his home he's in the toilet. He says to them, "Wait, wait." So they wait outside.

When Obama finishes from the toilet, he asks "Where is the PA?" And someone says, "In jail!"

Tell me everything you did yesterday in detail.

Yesterday it was Saturday, and I didn't have school. I woke up at 9 am. I drank tea with my big sister Ru'a. Then we helped my mum to cook mujaddara for lunch (a dish with lentils, rice, noodles and caramelized onions). After lunch, I studied Arabic because today I had a test. It went well. Then I had dinner with my family. We ate hummus, falafel, olive oil and za'atar, and black olives. I went to sleep at 10:30 pm.

Tell me a funny story about something that happened to you.

Thursday, I was with some of my girlfriends at my grandparents' house. We watched a horror film about zombies. I liked it very much. I was not scared; it was too funny!

Tell me a sad story about something that happened to you.

I don't know! I don't have anything sad... all the time I'm laughing.

What do you think of Americans?

I like them. They are good people. They come here to the refugee camp.

Is there life on other planets? If so, what is it like?

No, I don't think so. There are no people or animals on other planets because other planets are either too close to the sun (so it's too hot) or too far away from it (so it's too cold).

Why do some people have more money than others?

Because some people have good jobs with good salaries, but others have no jobs at all.

If you could be an animal, what would you be? Why?

I'd be a horse. Horses are very good. I'm a friend of horses. Horses don't attack other animals; they're peaceful.

What is the weirdest thing you ever saw?

People who were my friends becoming bad people. We were friends, but then they started going with other people and started saying bad things. Now they're good again, and we're friends again.

What's the most important thing ever invented?

Water and electricity. Sometimes in the [refugee] camp, we don't have water or electricity for a long time. We need these things to live!

What would you do if you were president?

I'd make peace with everybody. I'd give water and electricity to everybody. I'd give jobs to all the people so they can help their families.

What is scary to you?

The Israeli soldiers, especially when they come inside homes at the camp to arrest people.

What question would you like to ask an American kid your age?

I'd ask "Do you love your country?"; "Do you like to play?"; "What is your favorite food?"; "What is your favorite animal?"

What will you be doing in 20 years?

Maybe I'll be traveling around the world. I like to travel.

Will you travel with anyone?

No, I will travel alone.

Will you be married?

No, no. I will not be married.

Do you remember any of your dreams when you sleep? Tell me one.

I'm all the time sleeping, but I don't dream. I never dream.

What do you do on a perfect day?

I go to school. I like school very much. I study, and I play basketball and tennis. After school, I play with my girlfriends.

What's your favorite food?

Maqluba!

What advice would you give your parents?

I'd tell them to always be happy.

**Ragad, 12 years old
Bethlehem, West Bank
Interviewed by Lana T.**

Tell me a joke.

A little child asks his neighbor, "Do you have potato?" The neighbor says, "Yes." And the child replies, "We also have potato."

Which cartoon do you watch?

I watch the Smurfs.

What's the most important thing ever invented?

The phone.

Why?

So I can call my father when he sleeps at work; sometimes he stays for days at work.

If you had a chance to be a president, which country would you choose?

President of Paris.





What do you want to be in the future?

A painter.

What's your favorite food?

Mansaf (lamb cooked in a sauce of fermented dried yogurt and served with rice).

What advice would you give to your parents?

I would advise them to buy a red car.

What question would you like to ask an American kid your age?

Are you happy?

What kind of animal would you be if you had to be one? Why?

A butterfly; I love how butterflies grow up.

Why do some people have more money than others?

Maybe because rich people work more.

Lama, 12 years old

Gaza

Interviewed by Abeer A.

Tell me a good joke.

There was a big hole in the town, and people kept falling in. So the town wanted to solve the problem. They decided to build a hospital next to it.

Tell me another good joke.

One guy wanted to start a chicken farm, so he planted a chicken with its legs in the ground. The chicken died, so he asked people what he did wrong. They said, “Dummy, you have to plant its head in the ground!”

Tell me a funny story about something that happened to you.

One day I went to school, and I didn’t remember it was my birthday. My friends threw me a surprise birthday party!

Tell me a sad story about something that happened to you.

Once there was heavy bombing in our area, and we lost electricity

Is there life on other planets? If so, what is it like?

Yes. There is no school there.

Why do some people have more money than others?

Some people have rich relatives, and they inherit lots of money. Other people don’t have rich relatives.

If you could be an animal, what would you be? Why?

The lion because he is the king of the forest.

What is the weirdest thing you ever saw?

Once it rained so much in Gaza that it flooded all the streets and houses.

What’s the most important thing ever invented?

The airplane.

What would you do if you were president?

Prohibit all wars.

What is scary to you?

Mice, cockroaches and bombings.

What question would you like to ask an American kid your age?

Do you lose electricity in your country?

What will you be doing in 20 years?

I’m going to be a school principal.

Where did the Earth come from?

An explosion of two stars.

Do you remember any of your dreams when you sleep?

Tell me one.

I had a dream that I was flying in an airplane by myself, and it went down.

What do you do on a perfect day?

Have a party!

What advice would you give your parents?

Increase my allowance; prices went up too much after the war.

Ahmed, 6 years old
Bethlehem, West Bank
Interviewed by Lana T.

What's your name?

I have two names. My dad calls me Ahmed and my mama and my sisters call me Hamuda.

Which grade are you in?

First grade.

Tell me everything you did yesterday in detail.

I woke up early, went to school, and then played with my friend in school. Then I did some painting and went home.

What do you learn in school?

The alphabet in Arabic and English, and I can count to 100.

What do you want to be in the future?

A policeman.

What advice would you give to your dad?

That we should have a little dog.

What is your favorite food?

I love meat and fish.

What is your favorite season?

Winter.





Kareem

Why?

Because I love snow, and I can make snowmen with my sisters.

What kind of animal would you be if you had to be? Why?

A zebra because I play the zebra in our theatre in school.

Kareem, 10 years old
Nuseirat Refugee Camp, Gaza
Interviewed by Abeer A.

Tell me a good joke.

A girl once asked her mom, “Does a fish eat sardines?” The mom said yes, and the girl replied, “How do they open the can?”

Tell me another good joke.

Two guys were all by themselves in the desert. One guy looked at the other and said, “Can I speak to you alone?”

Tell me everything you did yesterday in detail.

I got up in the morning, and I prayed. Then my mom made me breakfast. I went to English and Math classes at school. In my English class, I answered a hard question, and I got three extra

points from the teacher. I played soccer and basketball in school with my friends. I went home, and I ate dinner, then watched how they make firefighting trucks on TV. I played with my brothers and sisters, then went to bed.

Tell me a funny story about something that happened to you.

The happiest thing I remember is when I ranked first at my school at the end of the year.

Tell me a sad story about something that happened to you.

When my uncle Abu Khalid was killed in the last war. I loved him like my dad.

What do you think of Americans?

I like them because they send us aid, but I don't like it when they give rockets to Israel and use them to bomb us.

Is there life on other planets? If so, what is it like?

There is no life on other planets.

Why do some people have more money than others?

Because they studied and worked hard.

What kind of animal would you be if you had to be one? Why?

The lion because he is the king of the jungle.

What is the weirdest thing you ever saw?

Oil barges.

What would you do if you were president?

Fine anybody who throws garbage in the street or doesn't follow the law.

What question would you like to ask an American kid your age?

If we swapped places, would you be able to live through the war we just had?

What will you be doing in 20 years?

I will study English, and I will build my future and go to conferences.

Do you remember any of your dreams when you sleep?

I had a dream that a man came to our house and said that he lost his house in the war. So we let him stay with us. Then one day, we went to the market. We found out that he was lying, and that he was an Israeli spy.

What do you do on a perfect day?

I imagine that I live in a nice house. We go to the park and barbecue kebab, go to the playground and play with my brothers and sisters. After that, we go and buy ice cream and chips.

What's your favorite food?

Shawarma, kebabs, hamburgers, salad and yogurt.

What advice would you give your parents?

Be patient with us.

Abd Al-ilah, 12 years old

Ramallah, West Bank

Interviewed by Lana T.

What's the most important thing ever invented?

Electronic devices like smart phones.

If you had a chance to be a president, what would you do?

In my country Palestine, I would fix up the hospital so that it's good, clean and everyone can go to it.

What do you want to be in the future?

An ambulance driver. I want to save the world and help people.

What advice would you give your parents?

I'd advise mama to stop smoking.

Is there life on other planets? If so, what is it like?

Yes, in space. They breathe oxygen maybe.

What is your hobby?

Capoeira.

What is Capoeira?

I think it's a Brazilian game [he shows me some of the movements].

Do you remember any of your dreams when you sleep?

I dream, but I forget it the next morning.

If you could be an animal, what would you be? Why?

Lion, because the lion is the king of the forest.

What is scary to you?

Speed.

What do you mean by speed?

The speed of cars and accidents.

Why do some people have more money than others?

Because of destiny, and life is sometimes unfair.

What is your favorite food?

Hamburgers.

What do you think of Americans?

I don't know. [He asks his friend, and his friend tells him they are simple, organized and happy people.]

Do you have a nickname?

Yes, Timon from the cartoon Timon and Pumbaa.

Why?

Because I'm too skinny, like him.

Oday, 11 years old
Jerusalem, West Bank
Interviewed by Lana T.

Tell me everything you did yesterday.

I woke up at 6:30am and went to school. I had kebabs for dinner. I studied, played outside and helped my mama clean the house.

Who is your favorite teacher?

Hussam, my science teacher.

What is your favorite subject in school?

Science because it is easy to understand.

What is the perfect day?

The day when I went on a trip to Haifa.

Why do you think there are rich and poor people?

Rich people use their minds.

What do you want to be in the future?

I want to become a pilot in Palestine.

What will you be doing in 20 years?

I will be married and have kids.

Do you remember any of your dreams when you sleep?

Tell me one.

Dreams! I don't dream. I drink milk, and that's my secret to preventing nightmares.

Special thanks to all the young Palestinians who agreed to be interviewed. Additional thanks to the interviewers on this project, including Abeer A., Lana T and Mar Senda. Photography by Dania Assaf (West Bank) and Abeer A. (Gaza).

Design by Brett Yasko.

Conflict Kitchen is a take-out restaurant that serves cuisine from countries with which the United States government is in conflict. Each Conflict Kitchen iteration is augmented by events, performances and discussions about the culture, politics and issues with the countries on which we focus. The restaurant rotates identities in response to current geopolitical events. Conflict Kitchen is funded primarily through food sales. Additional support comes from The Sprout Fund, The Benter Foundation and The Studio for Creative Inquiry.

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