

Swedish Ingemar – a privileged man in a complex life.

Before you read

- Imagine growing up in the 1950's.
- How do you think life was different back then?
- What were children fond of?
- What was popular at that time?
- What did the young generation worry about?
- How did the future look like?



Little history revision.

Match:

Cold war

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Nikita Khrushchev

Dag Hammarskjöld

Elvis Presley

Nuclear arms race



- a Russian politician who led the Soviet Union during part of the Cold War

- an American singer and actor. Regarded as one of the most



significant cultural icons of the 20th century, he is often referred to as "the King of Rock and Roll", or simply, "the King"

- the state of hostility that existed between the Soviet bloc countries and the Western powers from 1945 to 1990.

- a Swedish diplomat, economist, and author. The second Secretary-General of the United Nations. He served from April 1953 until

September 1961 a competition for supremacy in nuclear warfare between the United States, the Soviet Union, and their respective allies during the Cold War.



- 34th president of the United States, promoted Atoms for Peace at the United Nations General Assembly in order to ease Cold War tensions.

- a competition for supremacy in nuclear warfare between the United States, the Soviet Union, and their respective allies during the Cold War.



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Student A.

Read the first part of Ingemar's life story. Make questions to find out the missing information.

When I was born in 1. _____, big parts of Europe were still in ruins. Sweden had neither taken part in the two world wars nor in any other war since 2. _____. My parents were 3. _____. For economic reasons, my Dad had never had the chance to study. But his dream from young years came to inspire me – to push me – on my class journey many years later.

Life was pretty simple in the 1950's when I grew up with five cows, hens, two pigs, a horse and tremendous amounts of work at my parents' little farm. I was an only child without brothers and sisters, being very much left alone with my thoughts, dreams and fears about the future. I felt a constant longing for 4. _____.

My parents were quite old when I was born and there weren't many outward contacts. The new teenage culture never really reached me when I grew up. People like 5. _____ meant more to me than Elvis Presley or any rock star or football player.

6. _____ was an important part of my inner world as a child around 1960. Our only radio channel and one daily newspaper brought enough information to keep up my interest and fears about the world and the future for all of us.

Later, I became a pioneer in my family to study at the university. 7. _____ became my choice. Paths to the world were opened up. I came to live in spheres where my parents couldn't follow me. I slipped into professional life as a 8. _____ in the beginning of the 1970's, never really wanting to.

Dissatisfaction – and a strong wish to do meaningful things in life - brought me to try 9. _____. Parallel to that, I continued to be a teacher for adults. At the age of 26, my own family was founded right in the middle of my own uncertainty.



In the beginning of the 1980's, I got in touch with people who 10. _____. The nuclear arms race seemed scary. We could see the risk of a devastating war to break out from plain misunderstanding.

The idea of bringing together Soviet and American teenagers here in our district – called 11. _____ - grew out of a general feeling of despair. Also from the thrill of being the first known place in Sweden to carry out such a project. I was one of the people in the center of the process that made the peace camp come true. My role there – at the age of 12. _____ – had not

been planned by myself, nor by others. It just happened.

The political atmosphere at that time – and its consequences – must be thoroughly studied to be able to understand why the USSR-US-Sweden peace camp in 1983 was regarded sensational, arranged as it was by us common people belonging to a small, local peace group.



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Student A.

Here is the other part of the text to help you answer your partner's questions.

The most important thing about the 10 days long, heavily media-covered youth camp was **the fact that it took place at all**. The camp tore a symbolic hole in the cold war's "iron curtain" six years before the fall of the Berlin wall and more than ten years before the general introduction of internet.

The young people at the camp took part in common peace manifestations and wrote a common statement to the people and the leaders of the world, saying:

-Hundreds of generations have passed and now people are asking if we will be the last generation.

Luckily, the atmosphere from the cold war eventually got warmed up and the dangers of an uncontrolled outbreak of a nuclear war were removed. But my central role as for arranging the peace camp in 1983 had had its price, influencing **my way of looking at myself and at my professional life for many years to come**.

After a long time of personal struggle I found a new role as a teacher of Swedish for Immigrants – for adults - from **1992**. I slipped into this new career without planning it – and was lucky to stay in it until I got retired in the early **summer of 2015 at the age of 67**.



It's impossible to summarize the impact that a thousand refugees in my classrooms have made on my life during more than 20 years. I have got to know women and men – mothers and fathers – from **Bosnia, Kosovo, Serbia, Armenia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon – now Syria – as well as from Eritrea and Somalia**. With many of these people I have spent hundreds of lessons. Their destinies cannot be imagined by anyone of us who have been living in peace for so many generations. At that, I have also met a huge number of non-refugee students from China, Thailand, European Union countries, Latin America as well as

from Russia.

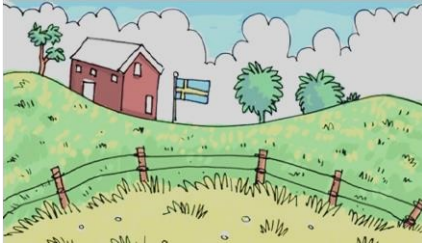
Being a teacher for immigrants for such a long time has been like **joining a peace camp every day**. In this role I have learnt a tremendous lot about how people live in different parts of the world – as well as about myself and my own country in a global perspective. I have led an extremely rewarding professional life all these years, having felt useful every single day.

The family side of my life has been filled with happiness and tragedy. I became a father in **1974** and a grandfather in **2004**. Our son – born in 1980 – became a world traveler after secondary school, visiting more than twenty countries in Asia as a back-packer. I joined him on a four weeks trip on our own in **Vietnam** in 2002, when he took care of me like a father takes care of his son. Sixteen months after those unforgettable weeks, he committed suicide back home in Sweden at the age of 23, struck by deep depressions as he tried to find stability in his life.

For the time being - with our daughter's four kids of 11, **9**, **6** and **4** - I try to give priority to my family as much as I can. But my strong commitment for the world and its people will always be there. Today including the growing tension between **Russia and the western world**, maybe requiring new **peace camps for young people**, representing openness and flexibility to meet the future and its common challenges.



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Student B.

Here is the first part of Ingemar's life story to help you answer your partner's questions

When I was born in **May 1948**, big parts of Europe were still in ruins. Sweden had neither taken part in the two world wars nor in any other war since **the beginning of the 19th century**. My parents were **ordinary country-side people in western Sweden**. For economic reasons, my Dad had never had the chance to study. But his dream from young years came to inspire me – to push me – on my class journey many years later.

Life was pretty simple in the 1950's when I grew up with five cows, hens, two pigs, a horse and tremendous amounts of work at my parents' little farm. I was an only child without brothers and sisters, being very much left alone with my thoughts, dreams and fears about the future. I felt a constant longing for **playmates**.

My parents were quite old when I was born and there weren't many outward contacts. The new teenage culture never really reached me when I grew up. People like **US President Dwight D. Eisenhower, USSR First Secretary Nikita Khrushchev and UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld (Sweden's contribution to world's top figures)** meant more to me than Elvis Presley or any rock star or football player.



The cold war and the danger of a nuclear clash was an important part of my inner world as a child around 1960. Our only radio channel and one daily newspaper brought enough information to keep up my interest and fears about the world and the future for all of us.

Later, I became a pioneer in my family to study at the university. **Foreign languages** became my choice. Paths to the world were opened up. I came to live in spheres where my parents couldn't follow me. I slipped into professional life as a **teacher** in the beginning of the 1970's, never really wanting to.

Dissatisfaction – and a strong wish to do meaningful things in life – brought me to try **journalism**. Parallel to that, I continued to be a teacher for adults. At the age of 26, my own family was founded right in the middle of my own uncertainty.



In the beginning of the 1980's, I got in touch with people who **gave priority to analyzes of the increasing east-west conflict at the time**. The nuclear arms race seemed scary. We could see the risk of a devastating war to break out from plain misunderstanding.

The idea of bringing together Soviet and American teenagers here in our district – called **Mark's commune** - grew out of a general feeling of despair. Also from the thrill of being the first known place in Sweden to carry out such a project. I was one of the people in the center of the process that made the peace camp come true. My role there –

at the age of **35** – had not been planned by myself, nor by others. It just happened.

The political atmosphere at that time – and its consequences – must be thoroughly studied to be able to understand why the USSR-US-Sweden peace camp in 1983 was regarded sensational, arranged as it was by us common people belonging to a small, local peace group.



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Student B.

Read the second part of the text. Write questions to find out the missing information.

The most important thing about the 10 days long, heavily media-covered youth camp was **1** _____ . The camp tore a symbolic hole in the cold war's "iron curtain" six years before the fall of the Berlin wall and more than ten years before the general introduction of internet.

The young people at the camp took part in common peace manifestations and wrote a common statement to the people and the leaders of the world, saying: **2** _____ .

“ _____ . ”

Luckily, the atmosphere from the cold war eventually got warmed up and the dangers of an uncontrolled outbreak of a nuclear war were removed. But my central role as for arranging the peace camp in 1983 had had its price, influencing **3** _____ .

After a long time of personal struggle I found a new role as a teacher of Swedish for Immigrants – for adults – from **4** _____ . I slipped into this new career without planning it – and was lucky to stay in it until I got retired in the early **5** _____ .



_____ . It's impossible to summarize the impact that a thousand refugees in my classrooms have made on my life during more than 20 years. I have got to know women and men – mothers and fathers – from **6** _____ .

With many of these people I have spent hundreds of lessons. Their destinies cannot be imagined by anyone of us who have been living in peace for so many generations. At that, I have also met a huge number of non-refugee students from China, Thailand, European Union countries, Latin America as well as from Russia.

Being a teacher for immigrants for such a long time has been like **7** _____ . In this role I have learnt a tremendous lot about how people live in different parts of the world – as well as about myself and my own country in a global perspective. I have led an extremely rewarding professional life all these years, having felt useful every single day.

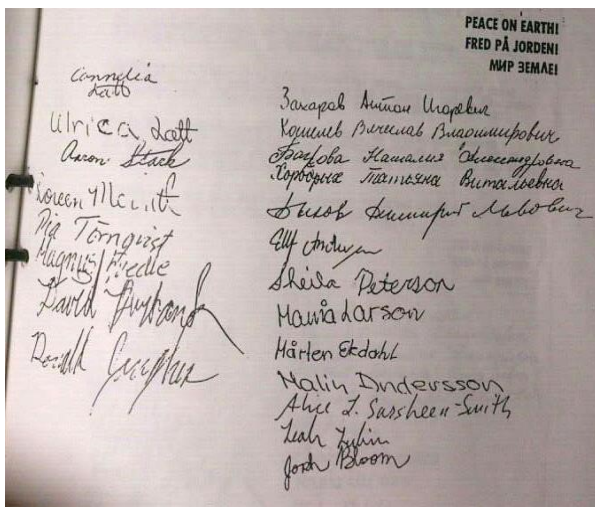
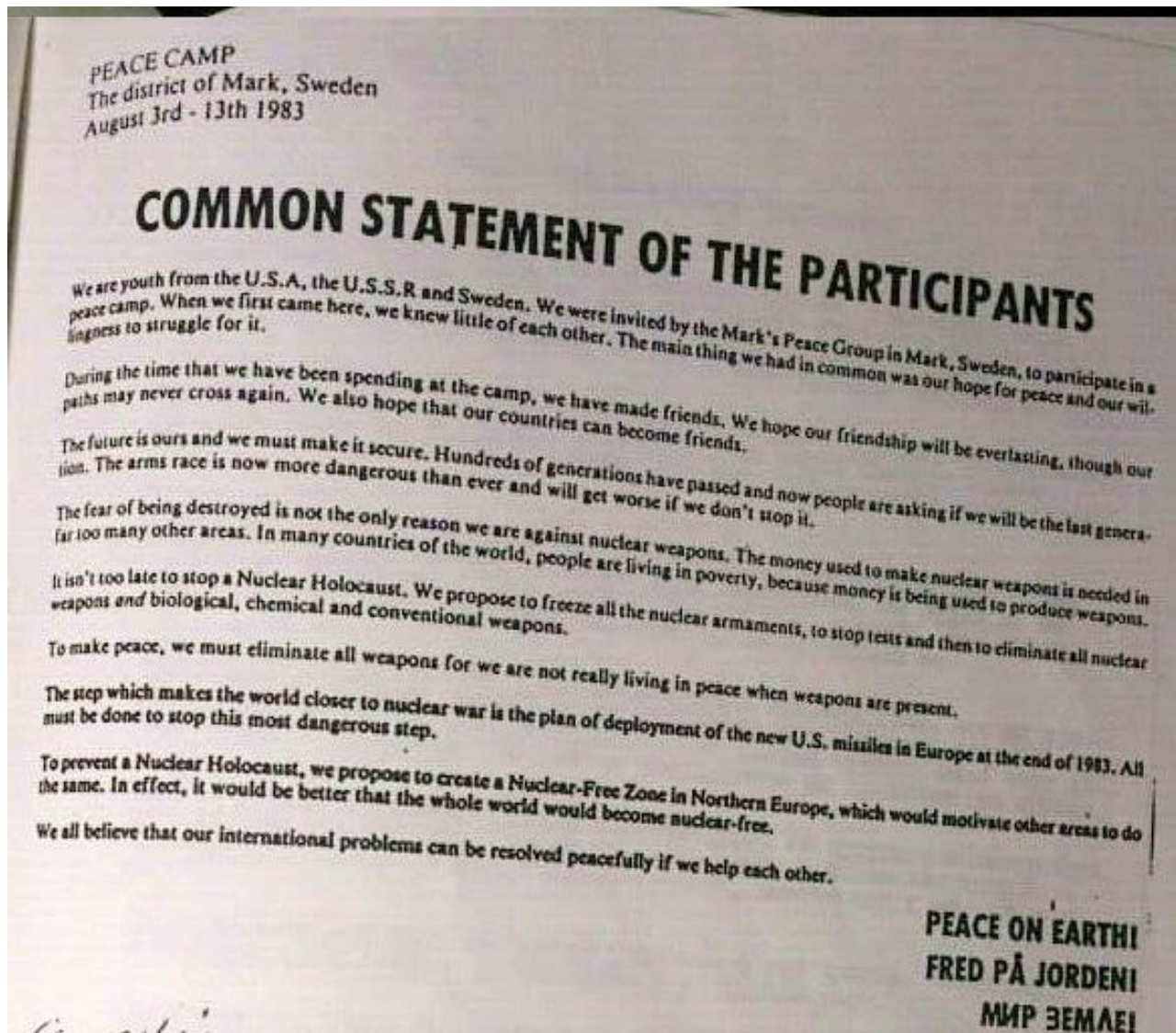
The family side of my life has been filled with happiness and tragedy. I became a father in **8** _____ and a grandfather in **9** _____ . Our son – born in 1980 – became a world traveler after secondary school, visiting more than twenty countries in Asia as a back-packer. I joined him on a four weeks trip on our own in **10** _____ in 2002, when he took care of me like a father takes care of his son. Sixteen months after those unforgettable weeks, he committed suicide back home in Sweden at the age of 23, struck by deep depressions as he tried to find stability in his life.

For the time being - with our daughter's four kids of 11, 8, 6 and 4 - I try to give priority to my family as much as I can. But my strong commitment for the world and its people will always be there. Today including the growing tension between **11** _____ , maybe requiring new **12** _____ , representing openness and flexibility to meet the future and its common challenges.



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Read the common statement written at the peace camp in 1983



Project work:

Imagine your class is a peace camp.

Think of the major world problems nowadays.

Write your own statement.

Think of a logo for your camp.



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Extra material:

New Haven Register, USA,
18 augusti - 83

Six of the eight youngsters who participated in a children's summit in Sweden to promote nuclear disarmament relax in New Haven. From left are Lynn Johnson, an adult member of the Children's Coalition for Peace who went to Sweden with the group. Leah Lubin, Alice Sarsheen-Smith, Sheila Peterson, Donald Joughin, Aaron Stark and Doreen Merritt. Not shown are Josh Bloom and David Burbank.

Staff photo by MICHAEL F. O'BRIEN



Kids bring home a message of peace

By MARIAN PROKOP
Staff Reporter

Kids in the Soviet Union don't want a nuclear war, and they want to work together with the United States to achieve peace.

The message was brought home by eight New Haven youngsters who returned from a 10-day visit to Sweden, where they met five Soviet and eight Swedish teen-agers at a camp in the district of Mark.

"Russian kids are just normal people like we are," said Donald Joughin, 12, a Foote School pupil.

The children's summit, which ran Aug. 3-10, was intended to establish friendly ties among nations, said Lynn Johnson, one of the adults in New Haven's Children's Coalition for Peace who accompanied the youngsters.

There was a day or so of shyness as the youngsters "checked each other out," said Alice Sarsheen-Smith, 14. The bashfulness quickly disappeared, however, after a paint fight erupted while the group was making a papier-mache dove. Their clothes and faces smudged with various colors, the youths began to make friends.

There was only a slight communication barrier because both the Swedes and the Soviets spoke fluent English.

"But they didn't know what a marshmallow was," said 13-year-old Sheila Peterson. The Swedes and Soviets soon found out when the Americans pulled out a bag of the white candy they had brought along.

Gifts were swapped. The Americans handed out shirts, bubble gum, marshmallows and stickers. They received wooden dolls with smaller dolls inside, records, books and pins of Lenin and the 1980 Olympic teddy bear symbol, Misha.

Discussions about nuclear war and banning nuclear weapons were held nearly every day. "We wanted to meet the Russians and see how they feel about nuclear war," Donald explained.

The Americans also learned they were the only ones critical of their government. The Swedish and Russian youngsters were proud of their governments, while the Americans said they opposed the Reagan administration's support of an arms race.

The Americans found Soviet children believe their government is trying to protect them from another war and view the United States as the aggressor in the arms race. They said Soviet children are passionate about preventing war because of the devastation in their homeland during World War II.

While the Soviet youngsters found fault with the American government, they were not critical of their own country's policies, Johnson noted.

The Americans also found they had some misconceptions about Soviet youth.

For instance, it's not illegal to wear blue jeans, said 13-year-old Leah Lubin. Some of the New Haven youngsters thought jeans were banned in the Soviet Union — a misunderstanding that quickly changed when they saw the young Russians sporting denim.

Nor are the Russians "bad guys," as the Reagan administration would have you think, Donald said.

A highlight of the trip was a demonstration attended by 1,000 people in the town of Goeteborg to mark "Hiroshima Day," commemorating the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Japan Aug. 6, 1945.

The trip also featured a visit to the Soviet consulate — a "classy" place with great food according to the young travelers, who were treated

to lunch and drank coffee and tea from crystal glasses.

The Soviet children also arranged for their cook to prepare a Russian meal of stuffed cabbage and borscht at the campsite.

No such hospitality was offered by the American embassy, which sent a letter to the group commending the youngsters' efforts but saying the embassy could not participate in anything with political overtones, the group said.

What the New Haven youngsters didn't like about the trip was all the media attention. The children's summit got extensive coverage from Swedish and Soviet newspapers, radio and television.

Alice said the group got tired of being followed by media people. "They got really obnoxious," she said, complaining that microphones would be shoved into their faces by reporters asking what they'd had for breakfast.

The last few days, the youngsters met in small groups to draw up a statement that was signed by the 21 participants.

"It isn't too late to stop a nuclear holocaust," the statement said. "We propose to freeze all the nuclear armaments, to stop tests and then to eliminate all nuclear weapons and biological, chemical and conventional weapons."

The statement also called for preventing the deployment of new U.S. missiles in Europe. It proposed the creation of a "nuclear-free zone" in northern Europe.

Before they left, the peace campers also erected a stone monument engraved with the words, "For Peace Resist This Stone."

The hardest part of the trip, they said, was leaving. "They are wonderful people," Sheila said. "They made us feel so welcome."

