BREAKING NEWS

Riot violence shook the city
What must stop? What happened?

This must stop!

It's a tragedy!
All this violence... Police fighting and hurting protesters... The world is a mess right now.

Speaking of this: there was a fight at my school the other day, too.
One boy made fun of a classmate’s rainbow t-shirt, and so they had a fight. The whole school gathered around them to watch.
It only stopped when Mr. Aston, our teacher, intervened and de-escalated the situation. I don’t know what he told them, but in the end they even shook hands.
Then he dedicated the entire class to teach us how to solve conflicts peacefully.

There is so much hatred and violence in this world already. Why add to it?
I know this might seem irrelevant to you now, but there will come a day when you will find yourselves in a conflict and will have the choice between violence and peace.

PEACE EDUCATION?

It is important not to act on your first impulse and try to understand the other party. Ask yourselves: where does their frustration spring from?
Violence has many faces - it can be physical, verbal or indirect... Any of these are harmful, no matter the age of the victim.
Try to put yourselves in the other person’s shoes. Why do they react the way they do? Does anyone really deserve to be treated violently?

Understanding the other is key in resolving a conflict peacefully. Just try to see the world through their eyes. Let’s learn to cooperate more as a group and society.
It was brilliant! I had never heard of ‘conflict transformation through nonviolence’ before.

Does this mean that you skipped the planned class?

Yes, we used up the entire time for discussions.
What do you think?

Our son seems excited about this, but all teenagers like it when they skip class.

I don’t think this is right. Mr. Aston should stick with the curriculum and not talk nonsense to kids during school hours. I think we should meet with him.
Oh no... A meeting with the teacher...