



... returns when given away.™

### PHOTOS SPEAK M1



Photos positively represent Felix Finkbeiner.



# A TRILLION TREES TO PLANT!

## IMAGINE

...living in a world where there were no trees to climb or sit under for shade. There were no green leaves to welcome spring and no colorful leaves alerting us to the start of fall. Now imagine that you thought you could do something to stop that from happening. This is what 9-year-old Felix Finkbeiner, who lives in Germany, thought after researching climate change for a school report. He discovered that billions of trees are cut down every year. Felix learned that trees protect the environment. His dream solution to this problem: plant one million trees in every country.

Felix was first inspired in his courageous endeavor by Wangari Maathai, a person from Kenya who has planted over 30 million trees to fight climate change. She won a Nobel Peace Prize for her work. Felix's parents were also an inspiration to him, especially his father, who founded his own environmental group. Felix's respect for the world he lives in led him to challenge other German children to plant 100,000 trees in one year.

After three years, one million trees had been planted! Felix also started an environmental organization, Plant for the Planet. With the help of the United Nations, he was able to share his message with kids all over the world. This led to children planting trees in almost 100 countries. He wants this organization to not just be about planting trees. He wants children to also share ideas and experience climate change. "We children feel really cheated," Felix said. "We children want the same chances for our future as today's adults have. But I'm convinced that we can't continue the same way as we have so far." The wisdom Felix has is far beyond his age. He shows great grit to persevere to change the world.

Felix understands that he is responsible for the world he lives in. This has led him to speak all over the world on climate change. He has shared his plans for protecting the climate in the

U.S., South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, and China. Felix's solution to his class report has also created green student movements in 70 countries. Plant the Planet's new goal is to plant one trillion trees. Felix said, "I'm convinced that what my parents do has certainly influenced me. But at the same time, there are thousands of children around the world who also plant trees, who are active and give speeches and presentations like me. I think most of them give better speeches than I do."

One person who interviewed Felix said, "Felix provides an amazing example of what one child, with passion and vision, can do to help change the world." Felix's respect for the environment and showing the world how children can contribute to the change are making a real impact. How can you show respect for something you believe in to have a great impact on the world and write your own best *True Success*™ lifestory?

## QUESTIONS LEAD TO UNDERSTANDING M2/5

1. What evidence did Felix find that showed that man does not respect the environment?  
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2. What actions did Felix take to show his respect for the environment?  
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3. What can you learn from Felix's lifestory? What can you do to show that you respect others or a cause?  
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