

# You only live once

What does really matter in life?

[Guideline]



On the following pages you will find a story. You will be a character and decide on how the story continues. At the end of each page, you will find an action or choice. Click on the action or one of the choices to be redirected to the relevant continuation of the story. For action words that will always be the next page. For choices (marked by the letters A and B) the relevant page will also be indicated.

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## Warnung

### Für Lehrende

Je nach Entscheidungspfad können Situationen auftauchen, in denen die Hauptperson der Story über einen Suizid nachdenkt oder das Tod thematisiert wird. Obwohl dies nicht der Fokus der Story ist, bitten wir um einen sensiblen Umgang mit dem Thema im Unterricht. Beispielsweise kann auf die auf der nächsten Seite aufgeführten Hilfsangebote verwiesen werden.

## Für Lernende

Je nach Entscheidungspfad können Situationen auftauchen, in denen die Hauptperson der Story über Selbstmord nachdenkt oder Tod thematisiert wird. Obwohl dies nicht der Fokus der Story ist, bitten wir dich, vorher darüber nachzudenken, ob du gerade in der Lage bist, dich mit dem Thema auseinanderzusetzen.

Unten findest du eine Auswahl an Hilfsangeboten. Bitte zögere nicht damit, diese zu kontaktieren. Diese können verschiedenen Formen annehmen, von anonymen online Chats, Kontakt über Mail oder Telefon oder persönlichen Beratungen. Sie können bei ALLEN Problemen und rund um die Uhr kontaktiert werden. Hier findest du eine erste Auflistung bekannter Angebote:

- [Telefonseelsorge](#) (Telefon, Mail, online & vor Ort Beratungen): 0049 11613
- [Nummer gegen Kummer](#) (Telefon, online Beratung): 0049 116111
- [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Suizidprävention](#) (Auflistung weiterer Angebote)

## Intro

### Part 1

South Africa, Cape Town

Summer 2018

Yannie

You are standing on top of Table Mountain at your favorite spot and are watching the port in your hometown.

Small ships, loaded with tourists, are rocking in the water, which sparkles in the sun.

Their goal is to reach Robben Island, the island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years. Nelson Mandela, a South African civil rights activist, was imprisoned after he stood up and advocated for equal rights of Black people in South Africa during time of Apartheid.

[Follow the ships with your eyes](#)





## Intro

### Part 2

Among others, you have him to thank for the possibility to grow up in a democratic state and visit school together with white and Black teenagers.

However, just because the system of “apartheid” was officially abolished, does not mean that everything is great in South Africa. A walk close to your home – in the township Philippi – is enough to convince you of the opposite.

A few of your friends, with which you played with in elementary school, now are homeless and sell drugs.

**Think about the future**



## Intro

### Part 3

You want to take a different path and live in a better society.

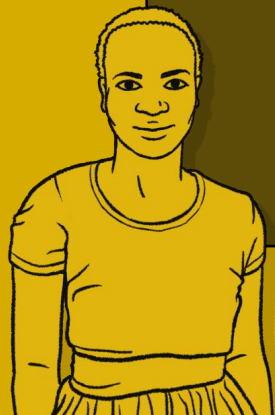
You wish to provide a greater life for your mother, when she grows old.

Your biggest dream is that people will look up to you and are proud of you.

But how are you going to reach your goals?

**A: Work hard and become rich (Continue on page 10)**

**B: Stand up for the local community (Continue on page 28)**



## Path A

### Part 1

Great-Britain, Oxford

5 years later

Yannie

You can't believe that you were accepted into a British ivy league.

It is a wonderful day in September and the sun is warming your face. Still, you feel nostalgic.

You are alone in a foreign country. and you feel like people on the street look at you strangely, like you don't belong here.

Stare at the grass



## Path A

### Part 2

You think of your mother, who did her best to make sure you could visit university. It wasn't enough, so you had to borrow a lot of money to pay the fees.

She just wants you to be happy. But what is happiness? How do you imagine your future?

Which degree should you choose? You know that this decision will change the course of your life.

[Walk slowly across the grass](#)



## Path A

### Part 3

Physics has always amazed you. You dream of a noble price. On the other side, chances of getting a job are good if you study business management.

**A: Study physics (Continue on page 13)**

**B: Study business management (Continue on page 19)**



## Path AA

### Part 1

Great-Britain, Oxford

40 years later

Yannie

A letter from a big energy company reaches you.

You suspect to know what they want...

With a team of international experts, you managed to create plans for a profitable nuclear fusion reactor.

This could be the long-sought solution to the energy problems of humanity.

[Open the letter](#)



## Path AA

### Part 2

The company offers to buy the rights for your plans. They are ready to pay vast amounts for them.

With the money you could finally fulfill your childhood dreams: yachts, huge houses near the beach and a life full of luxuries.

On the other hand, you planned to make the plans public so everybody could use them.

**A: Accept offer (Continue on page 15)**

**B: Decline offer (Continue on page 17)**



## Path AAA

### Part 1

South Africa, Cape Town

2 years later

Yannie

The money came too late to help your mother. Just when the villa near the beach was finished, she died.

Now you are standing all alone on your yacht. You feel lonely. A lot of people don't believe that as a woman of color from the townships, it's only through hard work that you've made it this far.

White man, who are posting pictures of champagne-parties, are being celebrated. You only receive hate mail.

[Look at the port](#)





## Path AAA

### Part 2

Behind the luxuries yachts there is the Table Mountain, which you loved to climb.

You always dreamed of being rich.

Now you don't even know what to do with all your money. Somehow you have lost your happiness.

### Finish story



## Path AAB

### Part 1

South Africa, Cape Town

10 years later

Yannie

After you received the noble price in physics as the first South African woman ever, your hometown nominated you as person of honor.

You returned to the township you grew up in, but it isn't the same anymore.

You made your invention available to the public on the condition that the energy which was created with your reactor would be made available to the public for free.

That is why energy is now a public good.

[Look around](#)



## Path AAB

### Part 2

The sun has already set. The townships are shining in a new light.

Actually, they are no longer townships.

The neighborhoods are brightly lit, clean, and modern.

The only thing that stayed the same is the solidarity of the people.

### Finish story



## Path AB

### Part 1

Great-Britain, London

10 years later

Yannie

The shouts of protestors are echoing in the airport lounge.

They scream: “Climate killer”, “Don’t melt our future” and “Climate Justice”.

With the help of your bodyguards, you reach the terminal and step on board of the plain all sweaty.

You are behind in your schedule. Again.

### Check your mails



## Path AB

### Part 2

Since you became the manager of a big fashion company, you always feel stressed.

You don't even get to see your mother anymore, who moved from the township to London with you.

On the other hand, you enjoy the respect you through your position. You love flying business class and visiting new countries.

### Answer mails



## Path AB

### Part 3

Still, the accusations of the protestors hurt.

You know how bad your lifestyle is for the environment and that your hometown will be flooded at some point if the world continues going on like this.

Yet, it is hard to change your way of life. Giving up flying would mean giving up everything you've worked for.

**A: Keep going like everybody else (Continue on page 22)**

**B: Risk a radical change of your lifestyle (Continue on page 25)**



## Path ABA

### Part 1

Great-Britain, London

20 years later

Yannie

The power supply broke down.

Garbage is piling up in the streets and is turning into stinking masses due to the heavy rains.

People suffer from malaria – flabbergasted you stare at the pictures of your hometown, which are broadcasted mercilessly by news stations.

[Put your phone aside](#)



## Path ABA

### Part 2

With every meter that the water level of the Thames continues to rise, your home loses value.

London is drowning and with it it's riches: the Buckingham Palace, the financial center, the expensive properties.

People are on the edge and moody. They direct their feelings against foreigners. Although you've lived here for over 30 years, you no longer feel welcome.

[Open the windows](#)





## Path ABA

### Part 3

You look down on the brown water of the Thames.

One step, fall into the water and come back up at the coast of Cape Town. That would be wonderful.

Despite the horrible situation, you miss your hometown. However, most planes have stopped flying due to the radical climate safety measures.

Additionally, it is unsafe to live in Cape Town now, especially if you are rich. Actually, it's unsafe everywhere.

### Finish story



## Path ABB

### Part 1

South Africa, Cape Town

3 years later

Yannie

Proudly your mother shows you the self-made dress with its bead embroidery after Xhosa tradition.

Since you returned to Cape Town, she seemed to have found her energy again. She even helps out in the small, sustainable fashion company that you founded.

### Examine the dress



## Path ABB

### Part 2

Your mother leaves to get water from one of the issuing points.

The townships struggle with the scarcity of water, the desalination plants in front of the coast are still not working properly.

The women from the townships, who used to be unemployed before you hired them, complain that energy is scarce as well.

Sigh



## Path ABB

### Part 3

On some days you miss your old life. In the beginning you felt like a loser when you returned to Cape Town.

Your reputation as a self-made woman, the little luxuries – everything gone. All of the sudden you feel your mother’s bony hand on your shoulder.

“I’m proud of you Yannie.”, she says quietly. You smile and for a moment you feel all the joy of the world running through your body.

### Finish story



## Path B

### Part 1

South Africa, Cape Town

5 years later

Yannie

Leyla's deep blue eyes turn dark. "You cannot go out and travel the world while people are dying in the slums in front of your nose!", she says.

"You are exaggerating", you scream. You are trying to push back thoughts of your early home.

It's not my fault they are poor! Do you think you are allowed to travel the world just because you are white? Do you think you are better than me?

### Bite your tongue



## Path B

### Part 2

She looks at you strangely. “I will not leave Cape Town”, she says quietly.

“And if you had a shred of responsibility, you wouldn’t leave it either. With every trip, every flight, the climate crisis gets worse and worse. The people in Cape Town will suffer, especially the poor!”

“Your dreams against the suffering of all those people – are you really ready to make that exchange?”

**Clench your fists**



## Path B

### Part 3

It could have been so wonderful: The evening of your farewell party together with the woman you love in your favorite bar.

Since your mother married a leading member of the government party you can afford every luxury, even the trip around the world you have always dreamed off.

And now Leyla is playing a do-gooder.

Empty your glass



## Path B

### Part 4

How are you supposed to change the world if you haven't seen it?

Why shouldn't you be allowed to travel to faraway places like all the other white kids? Why shouldn't you be able to Work and Travel, enjoy local food, and find yourself? Leyla or seeing the world - is that really the decision you'll have to make?

**A: Cancel your plans and stay in Cape Town**

**(Continue on page 32)**

**B: Stick with your plans and ignore Leyla**

**(Continue on page 45)**





## Path BA

### Part 1

South Africa, Cape Town

20 years later

Yannie

The same bar. The same woman is sitting across from you. You hate déjà-vus.

“That can’t be true!” you shout angrily. “It is 2043, why is a lesbian president still unthinkable?”

“Well, our people are more conservative than we thought. I mean the ANC is still in power. But that’s good for you, isn’t it?”. She smiles wryly.

Nod grumpily



## Path BA

### Part 2

With the help of your charm, your talent in public-speaking and the support of your influential stepfather, you have worked your way up in the ANC, the African National Congress.

You could become the presidential candidate and the chances that the ANC will win the next elections are high.

[Order another drink](#)



## Path BA

### Part 3

Oh, and there is so much to do! It seems like apartheid has returned to South Africa. This time, however, separation is not based on skin color, but based on how much money one earns.

The reason: Increasing scarcity of resources and growing injustices. The richer the rich, the stronger their fear of poverty.

### Clutch Leyla's hand



## Path BA

### Part 4

In order to be accepted by the majority of your party and society, you would have to keep your relationship with Leyla a secret. You might even have to end it.

Times are extreme and people have again started to mistrust people who are thinking differently.

At the same time, you want nothing more than to start a family with her.

**A: Kiss her – for the last time in a long time**  
(Continue on page 38)

**B: Vacate your political career and move together with Leyla** (Continue on page 41)



## Path BAA

### Part 1

South Africa, Cape Town

1 year later

Yannie

It worked. After a long campaign you won the elections with a vast majority. The first woman in office in South Africa!

You still can't believe it. The people are putting their hopes on you, and you don't want to let them down. Finally, you are able to follow in the footsteps of your childhood idol Nelson Mandela.

You want to transform the townships, fix streets by raising taxes on millionaires and help people find new ways of living.

[Take a look at the ocean](#)



## Path BAA

### Part 2

A South African way of life which focuses on respect.

Respect for life, for the fragile ecosystem, and for the needs and desires of fellow human beings.

You wish for the rich and the poor to talk to each other, for the old and the young to learn from each other and for love to be accepted in all its forms.

Maybe next time you can run for presidency with Leyla by your side.

**Finish story**



## Path BAB

### Part 1

South Africa, Cape Town

10 years later

Yannie

You climb the Table Mountain. Leyla is by your side.

Today was hard. Especially when the boy came to your youth club after he had to flee from his aggressive, drug-addicted father.

### Catch your breath



## Path BAB

### Part 2

Since you ended your political career, you have been working as a social worker.

You are tired of complaining about the incompetence of your former party colleagues. Now, you are trying to make a difference on the ground.

The youth club offers young people the opportunity to realize themselves: tools, paintbrushes, books, balls and a working internet connection. They are able to escape from reality for a few hours, have fun and dream.

[Take Leyla's hand](#)





## Path BAB

### Part 3

You are happy and content.

You are not famous, but the children in the townships worship you and you are respected by their parents.

You are proud of what you have achieved and of the fact that nobody makes a face anymore when you appear together with Leyla.

### Finish story



## Path BB

### Part 1

USA, New York City

2 months later

Yannie

You walk down Fifth Avenue and are overwhelmed by the booming stores of the "Big Apple". You feel like you are in a time lapse.

Hydrogen-powered cars drive along the streets. You can hear the roaring of helicopters landing on the rooftops of the skyscrapers above.

Your phone is ringing.

[Answer your phone](#)



## Path BB

### Part 2

“Yannie!” It’s your stepdad. Something is wrong.

“I... your... your mother is dead.” Your blood turns cold. Your limbs become stiff. You freeze. Behind you, somebody curses.

“... What?”

“She was infected with AIDS”. You feel like you have been punched in the gut. “AIDS!? Why didn’t she tell me?”

**Clench your hand**



## Path BB

### Part 3

Only now do you learn that your mother worked as a sex worker to provide for you and send you to a better school.

She did it behind your back for years until she met your stepdad. One of her clients was HIV positive.

“She didn’t want you to think she was a hooker”, your stepdad whispers.

### Scream



## Path BB

### Part 4

People stare at you. You have the feeling that the ground is trembling under your feet.

So, she did it for you...? Who are you? Who are you from? Was your father HIV positive?

Run onto the street



## Path BB

### Part 5

Everything is foggy. The image of her dead body blinds you. You start crying.

You can hear the voice of you stepfather from far away. Around you, people are honking their cars. Then something comes at you at a high speed.

A: Jump aside (Continue on page 46)

B: Freeze (Continue on page 49)



## Path BBA

### Part 1

South Africa, Cape Town

20 years later

Yannie

The service is over. Men and women are standing together in small groups and joke around.

The sounds fade into the background while you enjoy the fresh air.

Pictures appear before your eyes. Pictures of Leyla, your mother, and your stepdad.

Smile



## Path BBA

### Part 2

It hurt when they left your life so quickly. The sadness overwhelmed you again and again.

You decided to distract yourself and travel the world. You have experienced the wonders of the world and its devastation, the suffering of people and their happiness, the joy of love and the pain of separation.

You understood that the beautiful and the terrible in life are inseparable.

### Walk home





## Path BBA

### Part 3

After a while, you managed to deal with your feelings. Religion gave your life meaning again.

You returned to Cape Town and became a pastor.

Now you want to pass on everything that you have learned. Everything that helped you understand that you are loved: your faith.

### Finish story



## Path BBB

### Part 1

South Africa, Cape Town

20 years later

Yannie

Around you, your community claps and dances as your stiff fingers dance on the kalimba.

The band goes wild, drum solos take turns with the smokey voice of the lead singer.

You feel intoxicated, carried away by the music, in tune with the band. You forget the fact that they are standing around you while you sit on the dusty floor.

Start solo



## Path BBB

### Part 2

The car didn't kill you, but it was enough to crush your legs. The pain was so strong it blocked out thoughts of your dead mother.

In the hospital you met a musician. She introduced you to the kalimba and you discovered the magic of South African music.

### Finish solo



## Path BBB

### Part 3

People cheer you on and happiness flows through your body. It connects you with the audience and the band.

You forget the sadness, the tsunami that hit the city and devastated parts of it, the rise of drug addiction.

You want to live like this: To sit in the dust with a kalimba and be in tune with music, joy, and people.

### Finish story

