



Many thanks

*to all who wrote, sent drawings and photos
and were part of the Tapori newsletters in
2014*

Happy New Year for 2015



*Drawing by children from the
Democratic Republic of Congo*

TAPORI is a worldwide network of children whose motto is:

"We want all children to have the same opportunities!"

The name Tapori was chosen by Joseph Wresinski as a sign of solidarity with the poorest children. Joseph Wresinski, founder of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, grew up in poverty. While travelling in India, he met very poor children called Taporis who lived in train stations and supported each other. He later wrote to other children : "You are like the Taporis when you look out for others. You can find ways to make the world a better place and get rid of poverty."

Today, thousands of children between 7 and 13 years old, across many different countries and continents, are connected through the Tapori newsletter.

Activities

Read and answer

First Name : Age :
Address :
Country : E-mail :

You read the story of Joseph Wresinski when he was a young person. Now, you can answer the questions :

What was difficult for Joseph?

What gave him strength?

How did he find his place?

Send us your answers by post at :
Tapori, ATD Quart Monde
Chemin Galiffe, 5
1201 Geneva
Switzerland
or by e-mail at: tapori@bluewin.ch



Game

You need at least two people or an even number.
The feet of one person are tied together and the other person is blindfolded.

In your pair, start from a given place and together you should reach another place at least 60 feet away, as fast as possible! Then, change roles and do it again.

Tell each other what happened and write to us:

What was difficult for each one of you in that game?

How did you manage to succeed?

What did you learn?



Order Form for the Tapori Newsletter

I would like to subscribe to the Tapori Newsletter **and/or give a subscription to someone else!** in:

French English Spanish

Full name (of recipient of the Tapori Newsletter):

Email or telephone number:

I am: a child aged parent teacher other (please specify)

Suggested donation: 15€ (20US\$, 20 Swiss Francs or the equivalent) per yearly subscription

I would like to support the Tapori Newsletter with a donation

To make a donation and/or to subscribe online please visit: <http://fr.tapori.org/sabonner-a-la-lettre/>

Alternatively, if you would like to cancel your subscription to Tapori Newsletters please tick here
and we will remove you from our mailing list.

For more information you can email us at: tapori@bluewin.ch

Or write to : Tapori - ATD Quart Monde - Chemin Galiffe 5, 1201 Genève, Suisse

Joseph Wresinski

*Joseph Wresinski started **TAPORI** because of the hard life he had as a child. He was born in Angers, France, on February 12, 1917. His father was Polish and his mother Spanish. They were poor. They lived with their children in a dark rundown apartment. His father kept looking for jobs but no one hired him because he was an immigrant. Finally he had to leave the family to look for work in Germany.*

“Joseph! Joseph! Oh, he’s run off again!”, His mother calls him, and she is annoyed. She goes back to the dark corridor and the door slams behind her. Joseph is in the street and runs with all his might.

He turns and goes down a small street that leads to another nearby neighborhood.

“Kiki, Kikiii !”

Joseph hears kids laughing behind his back.

His family name is Wresinski.

It’s foreign and hard to pronounce.

So some kids call him “Kiki” and it makes them laugh.

Sometimes they don’t mean any harm.



But here, they are making fun of him. He knows it, and it hurts.

“Call me that, and you’ll see!”

His face is flushed with anger.

He grabs James and Fred, two kids his own age.

They fight. Joseph pushes them into in a hedge and leaves without looking back.

Joseph is not an easy child.

He is known for being a trouble-maker and playing tricks on people.

Some people call him **“The terror of the neighbourhood.”**

Joseph wipes his face with his sleeve,

takes a deep breath and goes on his way.

He arrives at the Saint Nicholas neighbourhood.



People warn children not to go there.

They say : *“There is nothing there but delinquents, riffraff, good-for-nothings.”*

“Hi!” Here are René, Marcel, Leo and others.

Together they play-fight, laugh, throw rocks into an old barrel,

jump down from a high wall, chase some pigeons,

play with a dog, make up a maze though back alleys.

Then they go to their hide-out,

under a stairwell, at a basement entrance, and share their secrets.

Joseph has become an “at-risk youth” as people say. They complain, “this kid, he is so insolent, so rude.” It’s true, if there’s any trouble, he’s always in the middle of it.

And one day, he is expelled from school. “I’ll be gangster.” He said to himself, “I’ll mess up everything. That’s what I’ll do. It’s the only way.”



But after a few months, Joseph is able to go back to school, although for him school is almost over.

The principal asks Mrs. Wresinski to come to his office and tells her :
“I am sure that you’ll agree with me. Joseph is not doing well in school and there is really no use in him being among the candidates for the final exam.”

But Mrs. Wresinski knows that Joseph can make it. He knows more about survival than many kids his age. He knows how to take care of himself and will defend those who are not as strong. He knows what’s fair and unfair.

And he knows how to take on responsibilities beyond his years.
So Joseph registers for the final exam.
The principal and others are certain that he will fail.

But Joseph succeeds,
thanks to a friend who helps him
revise the subjects
and because his mother trusts
that he will make it.
He gets his school diploma.

Joseph starts an apprenticeship
as a pastry cook.
He has to work a lot.

He kneads the dough, shapes
breads and brioches.
He learns how to make
croissants, chocolate eclairs and other pastries.



*At times he feels that he is some kind of magician
or an artist. The clients buy what he makes and like it.
It makes Joseph proud and happy.*



Illustrations : Amélie Dumont

Text : Extract from the book "Joseph" by Annelies Wullemijn