

Jakob Madsen, Holmen Skole

- Supporting students to become citizens through moments of great difficulty





The Pearl Diving Project





Drop Outs

- **Question: Are the boys' problems in school only an individual and moral question?**
- Reality I: Modernization of society and industry has turned education more and more theoretical and conform. Practical subjects have diminished.
- Reality II: Boys from the lower classes lose.
- **Local answer: practical projects are good entrances to learning.**



Background

- Traditionally, there have been small differences between rich people and the working class in Norway, especially on the west coast of Norway.
- There was a small gap between "rich and poor".



Education

- Our educational system is based on equal opportunities.
- Free education for all.



School legislation

- There is a central demand to local authorities that:
- Every individual has the right to education according to his abilities



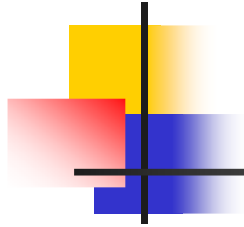
But now:

- We have been living in a long period of industrial development and economic growth
- Problem: the gap is widening between the well-doing and the ones standing in the shadow, the school-losers.



15 years ago

- Local authorities asked me to start a school for the people in the shadow, a second-chance-school.



- I was 40 years old
- My mother and father are farmers
- Educated as a teacher
- Working as a gardener
- I became a teacher again

Holmen skole's 1. paragraph

- Everybody has the right to a place in the sunshine!





School philosophy

- We founded our school philosophy on a dream and in a belief:
- Every human being has a pearl
- We became pearl divers



Metaphors

- We speak in metaphors, in lyric pictures





The pupils

- We have 10 pupils from 13-16 years old
- Mostly boys
- They are:
 - noisy
 - rootless
 - confused
 - afraid
 - angry
 - in a destructive direction
 - pupils with low self esteem
 - pupils with very low scores in theory



But:

- Everybody has the right to a decent life
- And everybody has a dream to get there





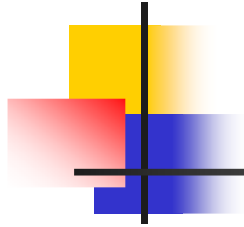
The New Start

- The First Meeting:
- -is based on a feeling
- -a feeling of an open door
- -a feeling of ACCEPT



60 minutes

- The First Meeting lasts one hour.
- It is based on the story of the pearl, and the people who are pearl divers. It is about the pearl we want to find inside the pupil, and it is about my teachers who themselves have shining pearls, and their skills in pearl diving.



- This story has a releasing effect, in a way as if set free from prison.
- A seed of accept has been planted

Accept

- The feeling of belonging to:
- Someone
- A group
- A school



- Beeing valued. There is hope!



Fix You

When you try your best, but you don't succeed
When you get what you want, but not what you need
When you feel so tired, but you can't sleep
Stuck in reverse
When the tears come streaming down your face
When you lose something you can't replace
When you love someone, but it goes to waste
Could it be worse?

Lights will guide you home
And ignite your bones
And I will try to fix you



The new start

- The new start is based on the knowledge of our pupils:
- That school up to now has been a failure, a bankruptcy, both socially and theoretically.
- Their minds have strong psychological blocks against theory.

- We created new subjects.

Construction

- We have been working, building our own school for more than 10 years



Construction

- Every house



Construction

- Every brick and stone





Construction

- Every wall, to keep the wind out



Construction

- Every roof, to keep the rain and snow out





A Triple Building Project

1. We got new buildings and a school of our own.
2. We have been building on our own lives, feeling good within a group, feeling ownership to something valuable.
3. We have trained our pupils to become workers, knowing several handcrafts.



The Tree and The Garden

- In The First Meeting, during the first 60 minutes, I also tell about The Tree and The Garden and the place we have reserved for the pupil.



Apple Production

- Planting





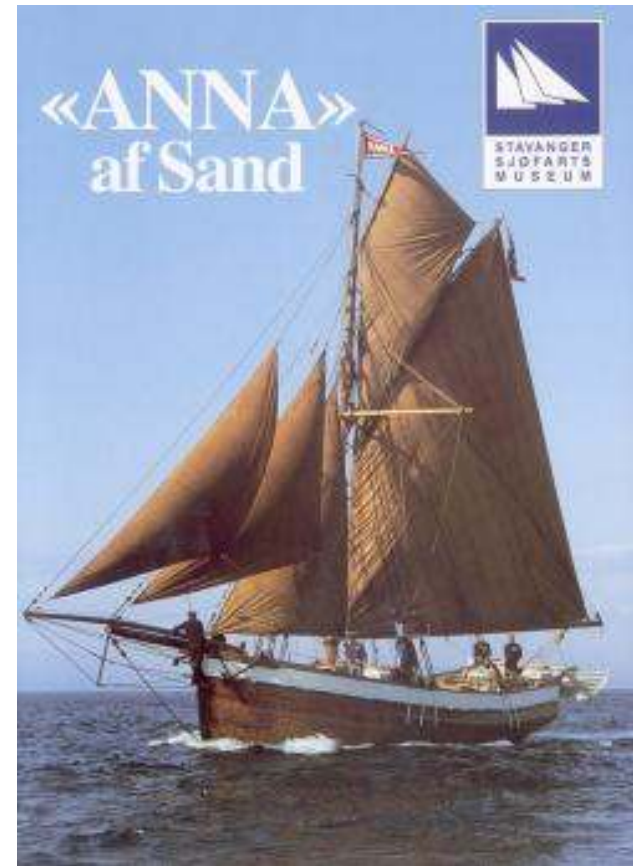
Apple Production

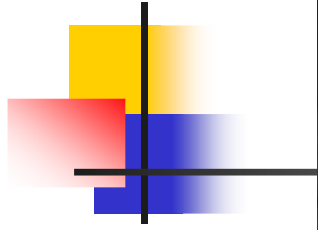
- Production

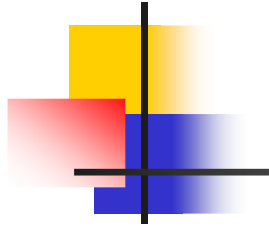


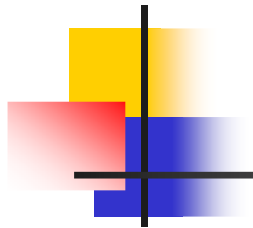
The Ship Metaphor

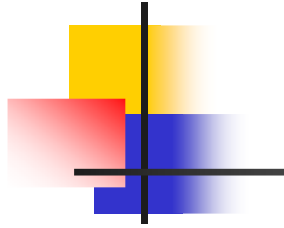
- Come on board!
- We are leaving past!
- We know the direction!
- We are all sailors!

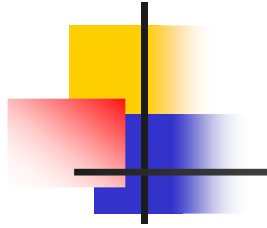


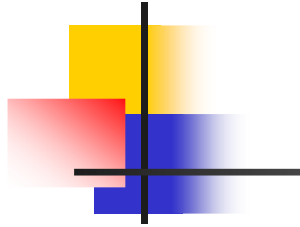














Belief

- We believe in miracles, but they are hard work.



Reality

- We know that knowledge cannot be forced into a pupil's mind, but has to come through heart



Everybody Hurts

- When the day is long and the night, the night is yours alone,
When you're sure you've had enough of this life, well hang on.
Don't let yourself go, everybody cries and everybody hurts sometimes.

Sometimes everything is wrong. now it's time to sing along.
When your day is night alone, (hold on, hold on)
If you feel like letting go, (hold on)
When you think you've had too much of this life, well hang on.

'Cause everybody hurts. Take comfort in your friends
Everybody hurts. Don't throw your hand. Oh, no. Don't throw your hand
If you feel like you're alone, no, no, no, you are not alone