

 [theday.co.uk/if-you-are-a-10-year-old-living-in-gaza-4](https://theday.co.uk/if-you-are-a-10-year-old-living-in-gaza-4)



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*Prize pupil: Rezaq Ahmed enjoys going to school and hopes to become an engineer.*

**Is daily life a nightmare? Millions of Palestinians are living in a crowded area of land, without many of the things they need. The attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas on Israel will likely make things worse for them.**

## What's happening?

Imagine life as a **Palestinian** boy called Salman waking up this morning in his home on the **Gaza Strip**.

He is woken by noisy neighbours. More than two million people live in an area 25 miles long and six miles wide — so everybody lives close together.

## Find out more

Salman knows better than to expect a hot breakfast: the family only gets three hours of electricity a day.

He says goodbye to his grandmother. Yesterday she was told that she needed care at an **Israeli** hospital. But Gaza is surrounded by walls and fences, so she needs an emergency pass.<sup>3</sup>

He makes his way to school past the ruins of bombed buildings.

Salman's school has so many pupils that half of them have to be taught in the morning and half in the afternoon. Today it is packed with people seeking shelter — they think that the Israeli army will not bomb a school.

Salman tries to get his homework done before dark, otherwise he might have to do it by torchlight.

There is fish for supper: a rare treat. Fishermen in Gaza can only travel 15 nautical miles from the shore.

After supper, Salman helps to settle his younger brother and sister down for the night. He reads to them and tells them that the explosions in the background are just fireworks.

Salman is an imagined person — but all the details in this story are based on fact.

## Is daily life a nightmare?

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## Some say

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Yes! People in Gaza often do not have the basic things they need. And they live in fear of bombs at any time. Life is a nightmare.

## Others think

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No! Humans are more **resilient** than we think. Many people in Gaza would rather stay there than say goodbye to their home and friends and family.

## Some people say

*“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge.”*

**Martin Luther King (1929 – 1968),  
American civil-rights leader**

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*What do you think?*

## Six steps to discovery

### 1. Connect

**How do you feel about this story?** - How do you think children in Palestine feel?

### 2. Wonder

**What questions do you have?** - For example: How did the conflict between Palestine and Israel start? Why might the attack by Hamas, a Palestinian militant group, on Israel make life worse for Palestinian people in Gaza?

### 3. Investigate

**What are the facts?** - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot say for sure from this story.

### 4. Construct

**What is your point of view?** - How is your life different to Salman's? How does this affect your health and happiness?

### 5. Express

**What do others believe?** - If you could send Salman one thing, what would it be? Explain your answer.

### 6. Reflect

**What might happen next?** - Write a letter to Salman.

## Glossary

**Palestinian** - Palestine is an area of the eastern Mediterranean region, including the West Bank, Gaza Strip and parts of modern Israel. It has been fought over by Arab and Jewish national movements for many years.

**Gaza strip** - The smaller of two Palestinian territories, home to two million people. It is located on the Mediterranean coast, surrounded by Israel and Egypt.

**Israeli** - From Israel, a country in the Middle East. Just over 70% of its population is Jewish, while 20% is Arab.

**Resilient** - Tough or able to cope with difficulty.