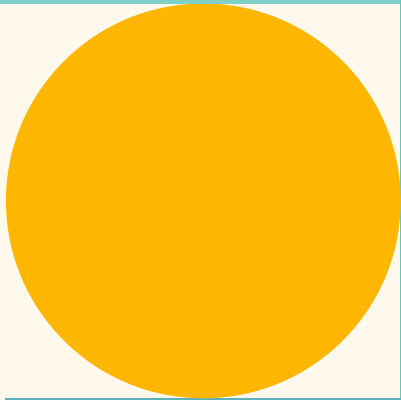


THE SCHOOL
FOR **INVISIBLE**
URBANISTS 

Action Pack



A Note for your adult assistant

Hello.

This pack is the first part of a three-part project. It is a way of continuing an artistic project that we started in school but weren't able to finish. It should be a chance for the children to do something unusual and creative – it will involve writing, drawing, thinking and imagining. The aim is to get them to look at the world around them in a different way, and think about what they can contribute to the challenge we all have of trying to make the world a better place. At the moment the part of the world we all have access to is our own house, so this is where the children will be working. In this first part of the project they will begin by studying their house – looking at it and thinking about it in a way they haven't before.

Most of this work they should be able to do on their own. They might ask for your help from time to time, to answer some questions or play some small games. For one or two parts they might ask to borrow your phone to take some pictures or make some recordings. If you have the time to help them then you are welcome to work with them to finish these challenges.

At the end of the pack it would be very helpful if you could help to record what they have done and send it back to the school so we can share their work with the other children in the group.

If you have any questions you can contact info@heartofglass.org.uk with the subject line 'FAO Kate Houlton – SFIU'.

1. Research

Good Morning Invisible Urbanists!

Today we will begin our project to make your house a better place. Like all our projects, the first thing we need to do is to carry out some research. This means looking carefully and listening well and trying to find out everything we can about the house. Once we have done this then we can start to think about what changes need to happen.

Looking and listening are always the first and I think the most important part of trying to make things better. In the first part of today's pack you will find some games to help you look and listen to things around you with extra concentration. Then, in the final section, you will be given a big task to complete that will use your new looking and listening skills.

*Good luck!
Andy*

THINGS YOU WILL NEED

- Paper
- Pen
- Coloured pencils (if you have them)
- A phone or a camera for taking pictures (if you have one)
- Something to time 2 minutes on
- Your eyes
- Your ears
- Probably your hands
- A house (any type of house – a very big one or a very small one)

I. Research

A: Looking

This first part is all about how well you can see the things around you in your home. How good are you at really looking at what's there? What things are right in front of you that you've never noticed before?

GUESSING AND COUNTING

This first challenge tests how well you know your home. Below are some different kinds of things. For each one I want you to guess how many there are in your house. Once you have guessed you need to go and find them and count how many there actually are. Then you can see how close you were to the right answer.

- How many handles do you think there are in your house?
- How many yellow things do you think there are in your house?
- How many things larger than you are there in your house?

FINDING

Your second challenge is about paying close attention. Below are 10 things you need to find. If you have a camera then take a picture of each of these things when you find them. If you don't have a camera then draw a picture of each one.

- Your favourite picture in your house.
- The best hiding place in your house.
- The oldest thing in your house.
- The newest thing in your house.
- Something in your house that you touch every day.
- Something in your house that you have never touched.
- The most beautiful thing in your house.
- Something that is alive.
- Something that is useless.
- Something in your house that you have never noticed before.

If you wanted, you could ask someone else in your house to do this same challenge and then compare their pictures to your pictures.

I. Research

B: Listening

This second part is about listening. You can learn a lot about a place when you start listening. You can listen both to the place and the sounds it makes, and you can listen to what people have to tell you about a place.

DEEP LISTENING

This challenge is about listening really, really hard. I want you to get a piece of paper, a pen and a phone or clock. Time 2 minutes. For that entire time, you are going to sit in complete silence and listen to the sounds your house is making.

Every time you hear a sound I want you to write it down on the piece of paper. If you don't know what the sound is just try and describe the sound and then after the 2 minutes is up you can try and figure out what the sound was.

- What was the strangest sound you could hear?
- What was the loudest sound you could hear?
- What was the quietest sound you could hear?
- Where there any sounds that you didn't expect to hear?

QUESTIONNAIRE

One good way of finding out about a place is by asking questions. Below are three questions I want you to answer.

- What is your favourite room and why?
- What is your least favourite room and why?
- If you could change one thing about this house what would it be?

Now I want you to come up with your own questions to ask someone else in your house. See if you can think of 5 questions to ask them. Write down your questions on a piece of paper and find someone in your house to ask them to. Write down their answers when they tell you.

Are there any answers you didn't expect?

I. Research

C: Making a Map

This is the last and most important challenge of the day. This challenge will involve all the listening and looking you have been practicing already.

Choose one room in your house. It might be your favourite room. It might be your least favourite room.

You need to draw a map of that room.

Make your map as big as possible and make sure you include everything that you can see in that room, from the biggest objects to the smallest (and any animals and people if you can see them). Try and be as detailed as possible.

When you have finished your map I want you to mark on the map:

- The best thing about that room.
- The worst thing about that room.

When you have done this, you can ask other people in your house to also mark their best and worst things on the map as well. See if they are the same as yours.

When you have finished your map take a photo of everything or scan it into a computer and upload it to the pupil scrapbook. Then put everything you've made somewhere safe, ready for pack 2 next week.

Congratulations Invisible Urbanists!

You have finished!

Give yourself a round of applause.

Even if you are in a room on your own.

*Be proud. You now hopefully know more about
your house than you ever did before.*

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