

## **But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids**

### **Hopes And Dreams For 2021 From Kids Around The World**

January 1, 2021

[Jane] This is But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids from Vermont Public Radio. I'm Jane Lindholm.

On this podcast, you send questions and we find answers. Well, that's usually how it works anyway. This week, we asked the question and you are doing the answering! We asked you what your hopes and dreams are for 2021. And what you'd like to accomplish in the New Year. These are sometimes called New Year's Resolutions.

And oh my goodness, we've gotten more than 100 responses to that question! So get ready: in this episode we're going to hear all of them! I know it's a lot, but Melody and I have found it really interesting and inspiring to hear so many of you talk about what you want the world to work toward in 2021, and I think you will too.

So Melody Bodette is actually joining us today. Melody, normally you'd be in the studio with me, but we haven't seen each other since March, just like a lot of our friends who are listening may not have seen their friends or family members. So I'm in the studio, but where are you?!

[Melody] Hi Jane! I'm in my closet.

[Jane] In your closet?!

[Melody] It's a trick that radio people use when they can't be in a studio, because all the soft clothes in your closet help absorb the sound so my voice doesn't bounce around and echo like it would in a big room!

As Jane said, we were thrilled to hear from so many of you, and we're determined to get all of you in this episode.

[Maya] Hi. My name is Maya. I'm from Toronto Ontario. My environmental wish for 2021 is that we can stop so much pollution. My personal wish is to learn Urdu and to convince my brother to get a cat or dog!

[Sonia] Hi. My name is Sonia. I'm seven years old. I live in Chicago, IL. My New Year's resolution is to do a one-handed cartwheel or a handstand!

[Martin] Hello. My name is Martin. I'm six years old. I live in Wye England. My new year's resolution is to have a happy new year. Thank you!

[Jane] Wow, those are cool goals, Martin, Sonia and Maya! But Melody, before we get too deep into all of our dreams for 2021, let's tackle a couple of questions that seem relevant:

[Camille] Hi. My name is Camille. I'm nine years old. I'm from Chicago, IL. My question is why does the New Year always start on January first?

[Jane] Melody, you did some research on this. What did you find?

[Melody] Well, the New Year starts on January 1, because a long time ago someone decided it started on January 1<sup>st</sup>!

For most of human history, different groups of people and religions and cultures used different calendars. Some cultures used calendars that followed the moon and stars. Other cultures started the New Year when winter ended and spring began. But in ancient Rome, the year started on January 1<sup>st</sup>. January was named for the Roman god Janus. Janus is the god of doors and gateways, and the god of transitions—beginnings and endings. Janus is often pictured with two faces.

Back in 1582 the calendar we use now, called the Gregorian calendar, was created by an astronomer for the Roman Catholic church, and the first of the year was officially set at January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Most of the world now follows this same calendar, for a couple of reasons. One has to do with colonialism, and the power of the Catholic Church in history to force other people and cultures to adapt to its rules.

But the other reason is that these days it's a lot easier if we all use the same calendar and dates. Some places use multiple calendars. There are also religions that use different calendars. And many cultures celebrate New Year's holidays that are based on other calendars. But most people and places use the Gregorian calendar for official business.

[Tejas] Hello. My name is Tejas. I'm from Canberra, Australia. I'm ten years old. Who invented New Year's Celebrations and why did they do it?

[Jane] For as long as there have been calendars, people have celebrated the first day of the New Year! It's human nature to mark the passage of time. And to want to celebrate making it through another year! It gives us a chance to reflect on what the past year has been like, and to look ahead to the New Year. It's similar to why we celebrate birthdays.

But how we celebrate the New Year depends on what our culture and family traditions are, and where we live! There are a lot of different kinds of celebrations. But it's a

common tradition in many places to set a New Year's Resolution: something you want to achieve or have happen in the coming year.

[Melody] Speaking of which, let's get back to what you have been telling us about what YOU want to see this year! It probably won't surprise anyone to hear that a lot of you just want one thing above all else:

[Nick] Hi My name Nick. I live in Litchfield, CT. My hope is that COVID 19 is cured and everyone gets better.

[Aed] When is the virus going away? What's your name? Aed.

[Wren] Hello. My name is Wren. I'm from Colorado. I'm seven years old. I hope next fall there's no coronavirus!

[Alexis] I'm Alexis. My hope for 2021 is that people will not go so sick and that coronavirus will end.

[Gwen] I'm Gwen. I'm five years old...six years old. I live in Santa Cruz. I want coronavirus to stop!

[Melody] And we also heard from Ella who's almost 12 and lives in Colorado, she wants the world's problems to be solved, including COVID-19!

[Jane] With so many of you concerned about the coronavirus pandemic, we wanted to get a little advice from someone who could give us a sense of when we might be able to expect life to get back to normal.

[Jennifer] My name is Jennifer Nuzzo. I'm an associate professor at Johns Hopkins School of public health.

[Jane] Jennifer studies pandemics and she's been talking to lots of adults, on TV and in meetings with government officials, and here's what she told us.

[Jennifer] The good thing is that it will end, but I don't think it will be as soon as any of us would like! There are vaccines that are starting to be used, those are important tools to protect people. We don't yet know whether those vaccines will stop people from transmitting them. If they do they will stop people from being sick, but in the immediate term, we think the number of people getting sick will drop as more and more vaccines are used.

[Jane] A lot of you sent us messages about the vaccine:

[Clementine] My name is Clementine. I'm seven years old. I live in Sydney, Australia. I hope that the COVID vaccination works!

[Max] My name is Max. I'm seven years old. I live in Boston, MA. My hope for the New Year is that there's a vaccine for the Coronavirus.

[Josiah] Hi. My name is Josiah. I'm nine years old. I'm from Australia. My hope for 2021 is that we find a vaccine for coronavirus.

[Agnes] My name is Agnes. I'm eight years old. I'm in third grade. I live in on Long Island, New York. My hope for 2021 is for the vaccine for coronavirus and so coronavirus ends and we don't have to wear masks and stay six feet apart anymore.

[Fisher] Hi. My name is Fisher. I'm four years old. I live in Toronto, Canada. I hope everyone gets the vaccine so I can see my grandparents!

[Sofia] Hello. My name is Sofia. I live in California. I'm six years old. My hopes for the next year are kinda weird. I hope that COVID is done and that the vaccines are here. I'm hoping for the cold weather and fires to stop. I hope that everything turns back to normal when the COVID is done.

[Zain] Hi. My name is Zain and I'm six and three quarters. My wish for 2021 is that the coronavirus will stop and the vaccine will come out and we can do things we haven't done this year and we can have our birthday together this year!

[Jane] It's going to take a long time to make enough doses of the vaccines for everyone to be protected. In most countries, public health officials are trying to figure out a fair way to get people vaccinated. And that usually includes trying to protect people who are most at risk first. So you might see people who are very old, or who have health conditions get vaccinated in these early days. And also people who work to protect us—doctors and nurses and other first responders. And then people who do jobs that are necessary to keeping our society running, and who have to be in contact with a lot of people. So maybe people who work in grocery stores or who are teachers in a school or who drive a bus will get the vaccine before everyone else.

[Melody] As for kids, we need to do more research before we can give the vaccine to children. But remember, the COVID-19 virus tends not to affect young people as much as adults.

[Jennifer] The good news is that children are less affected by this virus. It's the grownups that we're worried about. That's why the priority is to vaccinate grownups!

[Melody] Another thing a lot of you are hoping to be done with in 2021: wearing masks.

[Julius] Hi. My name is Julius I'm seven years old. I live in Ottawa Ontario Canada. My question is for 2021 when will we stop wearing our masks?

[Noah] I'm Noah. I'm five years old. I live in Massachusetts. My hope is that I can play dates with my friends without wearing masks.

[Hailey] My name is Hailey. I live in Charlotte, NC. I'm 9 years old. My new year's resolution is for COVID-19 to be over so we can see friends and families without wearing masks or having to quarantine for two weeks!

[Teddy] Hi. My name is Teddy. I'm six and a half years old. I'm from Richmond, Virginia. My New Year's wish is I want to stop wearing masks.

[Jane] Jennifer Nuzzo says you're going to need to practice patience on that one.

[Jennifer] We'll have to keep wearing masks and limiting our contact, so that might mean not being able to see our friends for a bit longer, which I know is disappointing.

My personal belief is that we're probably going to live like through until summer, perhaps through the summer. I hope I'm wrong about that. Some people think it could be earlier.

[Jane] Kids have been doing such a great job of wearing masks and keeping your distance. I know it's hard, but I have total faith in you that you can keep it up for a few more months to make sure everyone gets protected! And I want you to keep in mind something else: kids have been inspiring adults all through this pandemic. You have adjusted to doing school differently, wearing masks, not having play dates, not seeing some of your friends and family members. A lot of us adults look at you and say, if you can do it, we can do it. So thank you for helping your adults get through this, too.

Jennifer Nuzzo says young people have really been helping her get through this, too.

[Jennifer] You know, the thing that makes me hopeful is kids. I have gotten so many emails from students who have come up with really great idea of how to reduce the number of people infected with COVID. High school students have sent me some really impressive ideas to reduce the number of people infected with COVID. That to me, just seeing how young people have stepped up and tried to do what they think they can do to help other people. That makes me really hopeful.

[Melody] Many of you are telling us that you're missing school. Here's Jeremiah's wish for the New Year. He's 4 and lives in Mississippi:

[Jeremiah] In 2021, I wish I wanted to go on a school bus to school."

[Payton] I'm Payton. I'm ten years old. I'm from West Bloomfield, MI. My hope is that in 2021 coronavirus will get better and we can go back to school and get back to our regular lives!

[Jack] My name's Jack. I'm six years old. I live in Chicago. I want to go back to school!

[Amy] Hi My name is Amy. I'm six years old. I live in Oregon. My new Year's resolution is that I hope I can go back to school next year and that everyone is happy!

[Liam] Hi My name is Liam. I'm six years old. I live in Minnesota. My hopes and dreams are that I can go to school and not stay home because of Coronavirus.

[Melody] Jennifer Nuzzo says you may be in luck! If you're not in school right now, you should be later in the year, probably by when the northern hemisphere starts the new school year in our autumn!

[Jane] We know it's been a really hard year for so many of you. Lots of you are telling us you just want to see family again:

[Cadence] My name is Cadence. I'm about to turn six. I live in Lexington, I'm from Chicago. I really hope coronavirus is gone so I can see family!

[Isla] My name is Isla. I live in New Zealand. My wish for 2021 is to have a joyful time with my family and friends!

[Emma] My name is Emma. I'm eight years old. I live in Dublin, Ireland. I hope everyone will be able to see their family and friends and help the environment!

[Cordelia] Hello. My name is Cordelia. I'm four I'm from Elk River, Minnesota. My hopes and dreams is that grandma can visit us and that grandma can stay home because of coronavirus.

[Xochi] My name is Xochi. My New Year's dream is that I can play with my little cousin more!

[Alex] Hello. I'm Alex from Madrid in Spain. My hope for 2021 is for COVID to go away and to see my friends and family again.

[Audi] I live in Frisco, Texas. I'm six years old. My name is Audi. My hopes for the next year are for the coronavirus to go by March and to see my grandparents.

[Melody] I think the hardest part for me has been being away from family --- and the family we choose, our friends. Here's Cora:

[Cora] I live in New Jersey. I'm five years old. I want to play with my friends again!

[Tobi] My name is Tobi. I'm five years old. I live in Calgary Alberta. My hope for 2021 is that I can play with their friends more!

[Rowan] My name's Rowan. I'm eight years old. I live in Texas. I hope that I will make lots of friends in the new year!

[Andrew] My name is Andrew. I'm six years old. I live in Berkeley California. My hopes are to see my friends again! Bye!

[Leona] My name is Leona. I live in Weathersfield, Vermont. I'm seven years old. I hope that I get to see my friends again!

[Aurora] My name is Aurora. I'm ten years old. I live in Weathersfield, Vermont. My hopes and dreams for 2021 are to spend time with friends again and to help my dad out on his farm.

[Taylor] Hi. My name is Taylor. I'm nine years old. I'm from Vancouver, Canada. My hope for 2021 is that I can visit with my friends again.

[Ella] My name is Ella. I'm six years old. I live in Perth, Western Australia. My wish for next year is that there's no more coronavirus and everybody can see everybody again!

[Noah] Hi. I'm Noah. I'm eight years old. I live in Texas. My hopes and dreams for the New Year is that coronavirus will be gone and that people can be with each other again.

[Jane] Me too, you guys. That's my wish for 2021.

[Melody] While we don't know exactly when it will be, yet, a lot of you are already thinking about a future when you can travel again!

[Hannah] My name is Hannah. I live in Langley, British Columbia. I'm five years old. My resolutions for 2021 that I can ride the bus. That I can make paper airplanes. That it's safe enough to travel and that next year I can have fun in grade 1!!!

[Rea] Hi My name is Rea. I'm seven years old. I hope in 2021 Corona will be over and we will be free to travel more places because we were stuck here!

[Nikita] Hi. My name is Nikita. I'm ten years old. I live in Virginia. My hope and dream for 2021 is for the pandemic to end so I can go visit my grandparents and my uncle's family in India.

[Carissa] My name is Carissa. I'm six years old. I live in Brussels, Belgium. I wish the next year 2021 would like normal corona and so my gramma/granpy could come here and so I could visit India!

[Josephine] My name is Josephine. I live in Alabama. My hope for next years is that people will stop littering. My new year's resolution is to travel to Hawaii.

[Jane] Hawaii sounds nice! Remember when I told you that we heard from so many of you who want the global pandemic to end? Before we move on to other subjects, here a few more:

[Mia] Hi My name is Mia. I'm 11 years old. I live in St. Louis, MO. My new year's resolution is for everyone to be healthy and for COVID 19 to be eliminated!

[Mercer] My name's Mercer. I'm five years old. I live in St. Louis, MO. My hope is that coronavirus will end soon!

[Connor] Hi. My name is Connor. I live in Toronto. I'm six years old. My new Year's resolution is for coronavirus to stop. I'm going to hand my mic to my sister.

[Veronica] My name is Veronica. I live in Toronto. I'm six years old. My New Year's resolution is for cats to be cuter and for coronavirus to stop.

[Ravi] Hi. My name is Ravi. I'm six years old. I live in Arizona. My hope for the new year is for COVID to go away!

[Logan] My name is Logan. I live in Ohio. I'm seven years old. My hope for the next year is for the coronavirus to stop!

[Franny] Hi My name is Franny. I'm six years old. I live in Minnesota. I want coronavirus to stop.

[Melody] Four-year-old Leo in Portland, Oregon said by email: “[I] hope that the pandemic will be over in 2021!”

And here’s one more thought from Neil:

[Neil] I'm five years old. I live in Chicago IL. My hopes for 2021 is for COVID to be over so my friends and family could come inside the house!

[Jane] Even though COVID-19 is the thing we all focused on in 2020, some of you are making resolutions about personal things you want to learn or do or accomplish before 2022. Here’s Ben:

[Ben] I'm nearly 9. I live in London, England. My new year's resolution is to improve my hand writing to make it easier for others to read!

[Adelaide] My name is Adelaide. I'm six years old. I live in California. Next year I want to learn how to ride my bike by myself?

[Jane] And here’s Sydney from California:

[Sydney] In 2021 I hope to grow a berry patch with berries, I'll use them to make smoothies, fruit salad and ice cream with my friends and family.

[Jane] That sounds really lovely! Coming up, no more coronavirus, but more of your hopes and goals for 2021.

This is But Why, I'm Jane Lindholm. For the New Year, we asked you to send us your hopes and dreams for 2021. And SO MANY of you replied. Today, Melody Bodette and I are going through all 100+ of them—we want you to get inspired by the creativity and motivation of your peers around the world, and maybe to feel like you're not alone in some of your wishes and goals.

[Sully] Hi My name is Sully. I'm from Sydney, Australia. I'm ten years old. My New Year's Resolution is to canter on a horse!

[Vincent] My name is Vincent. I'm seven years old. My hope for 2021 is for my family to live on farm!

[Gemma] Hi. I'm Gemma. I'm ten years old. I live in Vancouver, Canada. My hopes for 2021 are to learn new tricks on my skateboard!

[Melody] I know we said we weren't going to talk about coronavirus anymore, but with a lot of events cancelled and some of our favorite places closed, some of you sent us things you want to do once we're through the pandemic:

[Minh] I'm Minh. I live in Vietnam. I wish I could go to the golf course and play golf!!!

[Casper] My name is Casper. I am five years old. I live in Montreal. My hope for next year is that the Jazz Festival will be open. ~~Will it be open?~~

[Shivam] Hi My name is Shivam. I'm 11 year's old. My hope for the next year is that we'll be allowed to go to sporting events!

[Nora] Hi I'm Nora. I'm six years old. I live in Kansas City, Missouri. My hope for the new year is to go to the pool!

[Kippy] I'm Kippy. I live in British Columbia. I'm four years old. My hopes are I want to go to the trampoline park and the petting zoo!

[Jane] Some of you had animals on your minds. Like 9-year-old Chloe, who lives in Ohio and wrote that she wants people to stop being mean to animals and stop hurting them. Me too, Chloe! Here's Karolina:

[Karolina] I'm seven years old from Ottawa, Canada. My hope for the next year is for coronavirus to be over and for there to be more forests for the animals!

[Layla] My name is Layla. I'm eight years old. I'm from Missouri. In the new year I want all the animals in the world to be cared for. I gave money to a dog shelter near where I live.

[Jedi] Hi My name is Jedi. I live in Ohio. I am 8 years old. What I want to happen for the new year is that I want people to start being responsible and no coronavirus. I want people to stop polluting. I want people to wear more masks. I want people to be kind to animals.

[Eric] Hello. I'm Eric. I'm five years old. I'm from Danbury, CT. I hope we come up with a new solution to help the puffins!

[Isaac] My name is Isaac. I'm seven years old. I'm about to turn 8. I live in Seattle, Washington, United States. My hope for the next year is that people catch less salmon, because I want there to be at least 50 salmon out there in the Pacific Ocean.

And a couple of you want to get animals to live in your home—pets! Like this kiddo who didn't include their name:

[NO NAME] My dream or hope for next years is to be a puppy dad.! That means to get a new puppy!

[Elizabeth] My name is Elizabeth. I'm seven years old. I live in New York City. My hope for 2021 is that COVID 19 goes away so I can open a puppy shop!

[Jane] And a few of you want new family members:

[Abram] I'm Abram. I'm seven years old. I'm from Atlanta Georgia. My hope is for coronavirus to be over for good. My hope is to get a little brother or sister!

[Alex] Hi My name is Alex. I live in Prague, CZ. I'm nine years old. My wish for 2021 is to have a little brother.

[Hannah] My name is Hannah. I'm five years old. I live in Georgia. My New Year's wish is that next year I hope my baby sister can talk!

[Melody] And here are a few more of you with things you want to learn this year:

[Birdie] Hi My name is Birdie. I live in Boston. I'm six years old. I hope that I can learn the piano. Bye!

[Spencer] Hi My name is Spencer. I'm seven years old. My New Year's Resolution is to become better at trampolining!

[Melody] And Subhi, who's almost 11 and lives in India wrote to say: I hope that in 2021 Covid-19 ends and my goal is to learn a new language.

[Jane] That's a great goal! Lots of you are concerned about pollution:

[Nora] Hi. My name is Nora. I'm seven years old. I live in Wisconsin. My wish for the new year is for people to stop polluting the earth so much!

[Lily] Hi My name is Lily. I'm ten years old. I live in Wisconsin, US. In 2021, I'm hoping that coronavirus will be solved. I'm going to try to get better grades and help the environment!

[Ishaan] My name is Ishaan. I live in Arizona. I'm nine years old. I would like the world to have less pollution!

[Audrey] My name is Audrey. I'm eight years old. I live in Seattle, Washington. My hope is that people will make less pollution in 2021.

[Grace] Hello. My name is Grace. I'm from Chicago, IL. I'm seven years old. My hope for 2021 is that there's less pollution.

[Joshua] My name is Joshua. I'm five years old. I live in Portland, OR. My hope for 2021 is we plant more trees and not pollute as much!

[Aashay] My name is Aashay. I'm six years old. I live at San Diego. My hope for 2021 is for the carbon dioxide levels to go down!

[Jane] And Liam, who's 11 and lives in Fairfax, Vermont, wrote to say, "I am hoping that more places can have clean air like Fairfax."

Yanda, who's 8 and lives in Singapore wrote: "My wish for 2021 is to let coronavirus run away and for global warming to die!"

Here's another thought on that from Miles:

[Miles] I'm nine years old. My hope and dream for 2021 is for global warming to be reduced!

[Evelyn] Hello. this is Evelyn. I'm in fourth grade and I live in Albany, New York. I hope in 2021 more people think about and believe in climate change.

[Melody] We asked someone who writes and thinks and acts on climate change what he's hopeful for this year:

[Bill McKibben] Hi this is Bill McKibben. I'm hopeful for 2021. I'm hopeful we'll have new presidents, and I'm hopeful we'll have a new vaccine that gets us out of this pandemic and back to school and work. And I'm hopeful most of all that people are starting to take seriously the dangers to this planet. I hope that we're going to see lots of solar panels going up and that we'll see lots of wind turbines and the temperature coming down, at least a little!

[Jane] A lot of that global warming is caused by cars, and that's where some of you would like to see change:

[Kyrav] My name is Kyrav. I'm six years old. I live in Geneva, Switzerland. Next year I would like more electric cars!

[Bruno] Hello. My name is Bruno. I live in Taiwan. My hope for 2021 is that flying cars could fly through the world!

[Desmond] My name's Desmond. I'm five years old. I live in Prince Edward Island. I hope that people start making cars that don't pollute and start cleaning up the ocean to make the oceans clean with no garbage in them!

[Melody] And while we're talking about the environment, here's something Jax in Tennessee would like to see less of:

[Jax] For 2021 I hope people use less plastic. I hope they use water and I hope coronavirus will stop!

[Kera] Hi My name is Kera. I'm five years old. The next year I hope that the world is a better place and people use less plastic!

[Sloan] My name is Sloan. I'm seven years old. I live in Wisconsin. My new year's resolution is for sloths to take over the world and for people to use less plastic.

[Tejas] Hello. My name is Tejas. I live in Canberra, Australia. My hope for next years is that we don't use as much plastic as we do now and that coronavirus will stop so we're able to do the things we like to do.

[Jane] Ok! We're almost done! I'm already so inspired and impressed by all the things you are hoping we can accomplish together as a world in this new year. Here are a few more of the personal goals some of you shared with us:

[Cameron] Hi My name is Cameron. I'm seven years old. I live in Toronto. My hope for the new year is to ollie on a skateboard.

[Violet] Hi my name is Violet. I'm 7 years old and I'm from Zeeland, MI. My New Year's Resolution is to learn more about geology because I love history and rocks.

[Paul] Hello. My name is Paul. I'm six years old. I live in Somerville, MA. My hopes for the New Year are I hope that more dinosaurs will be discovered and that we will find more signs of life in space!

[Melody] That would be a cool discovery for 2021! A few of you have thoughts on things that would help your fellow humans:

[Mikal] Hi My name is Mikal. I am 7 years old. I live in Georgia. My hope for 2021 is that everyone gets health care.

[Essie] Hi. My name is Essie. I live in Philadelphia, PA. I'm six and a half. My wish is for everybody to get free health care!

[Dylan] My name is Dylan. I'm nine years old. I live in Arizona. My hopes and dreams for 2021 is for everyone to have food and water!

[Melody] And here's another idea that I liked:

[Arabella] Hi My name is Arabella. I'm ten years old. I live in England. For 2021 I hope more kids get to work in the government!

[Jane] I like that idea too. I was really inspired by how many of you sent in your thoughts about being kind to one another. I think that's so important after a year that's been really difficult. Olivia who's 6 and lives in Pennsylvania wrote in to say "I hope that everyone will be kind to each other!"

[Penelope] Hi My name is Penelope. I'm eight years old. I live in Toronto. My hope for 2021 is for everyone to be kinder.

[Richie] Hi But Why! My name is Richie. I'm from Newbury, MA. I'm nine years old. My New Year's resolution for 2021 is to be nice to my brother!

[Edith] My name is Edith. I'm six years old. I live in London, England. My hope for 2021 is that everyone is more loving and peaceful!

[Priselle] Hi My name is Priselle. I live in Seattle. I'm five. I hope that there's fighting and everything's sweet and silly!

[Melody] And Milly from New Zealand wrote "my hopes and dreams for 2021 are that people are kind to animals and one another, and that everyone comes together to save the planet!"

[Charlotte] Hi. My name is Charlotte. I live in New York. I'm in first grade. I am also six. I want to lay underwater for two minutes!

[Weston] My name is Weston. I'm five years old. I live in Ohio. I hope my baby teeth with fall out!

[Winter] Hi. My name's Winter. I'm nine years old. I live in New Hampshire. My hopes and dreams for 2021 are that I get a YouTube channel and that I do good at it.

[Jane] Wow. I hope you're as inspired as we are to keep thinking about big dreams and goals for this year. Before we go, here's one more adult we thought you might appreciate hearing from.

[Naomi] Happy 2021, or two thousand and twenty one. This is Naomi Shihab Nye speaking from Texas. I am a poet, I am a friend of poetry, a reader of poetry since I was six years old and very honored to be called by the Poetry Foundation in Chicago the Young Peoples' Poet Laureate in the United States. I wish you all a very good year. Here are a couple of things I would hope for you: I hope you are kind to yourself as writers. I hope you believe that you could write words down every day and be lead places that are interesting. I hope you have great surprises. I hope you feel cozy when you're writing. I doesn't have to be perfect. It doesn't have to be gorgeous, but let it be your friend. Write what you need to write at any given moment. When you go back and read it later you'll feel that honesty in it. I hope you get to go back to playgrounds and parks and festivals and libraries and all the beautiful places where people gather in the coming year. I hope you read some really great poems and share them with your friends. And I hope you stay safe. Big hugs, virtual hugs, from me, Naomi, to all of you.

[Jane] I'm so thankful that all of you were willing to share your hopes and dreams with us, both through your written emails and your voice messages! Here's another goal we liked!

[Melody] Oh wait, we have one more message, and we'll let this one be the last word.

[Muriel] Hi my name is Muriel. I 'm 7 years old. I live in Taipei, Taiwan. My goal for 2021 is to learn whistling the "But Why" song from my dad. (Dad whistling...) Thanks for the show!

[Melody] I hope you all have a very Happy New Year!

[Jane] Yes, Happy New Year! We're so glad to have you share your curiosity with us.

That's it for this very long episode! We hope we didn't leave anyone out!

[Melody] But Why is produced by me, Melody Bodette,

[Jane] and me, Jane Lindholm, at Vermont Public Radio. Our show is distributed by PRX.

Our theme music, including the whistling, is by Luke Reynolds.

We had additional music today from Blue Dot Sessions.

We'll be back in two weeks with an all new episode.

Until then, Stay safe and stay curious!