**Jackson, Kenya - Even though Jackson has never seen an airplane he dreams of becoming a pilot and discovering the world.**

Jackson is a 11 years old Kenyan from the Sumburu tribe. Every day he risks his life to get to school which is 15 kilometers away from his home. To get there he walks with his 6-year-old sister Salomé. During the dry season it is not uncommon for them to leave home on an empty stomach. Their route is very dangerous. Armed gangs attack villages, and elephants are very aggressive, often chasing and sometimes killing whomever they encounter. At the age of 11, Jackson already manages the family’s income, and sometimes the family’s relations with neighbours – which can be tricky.

On the way to school, Jackson sets a fast pace. When Salome gets tired or frightened he holds her hand, reassures her, tells her stories or sings to her – but only in open terrain. Jackson and Salome are very close. He has looked out for her for years. Jackson wants Salome to study like he does so she will be able to take care of herself and choose her own future. He is always there for her if she has a problem in school too.

Despite difficult family circumstances, Jackson’s resolve to go to school is unshakable. Risking his life every day doesn’t stop him from being an A student. He has managed to secure a scholarship thanks to his impressive results. Each year he has to buy his uniform and pencils. His uniform is his most precious possession and he takes great care of it.

**Zahira, Morocco - Zahira wants to become a doctor to help care for the poor.**

Zahira is a 12 years old Berber girl who lives in a remote village of the Imlil Valley in the heart of the Atlas mountains. During winter temperatures can drop to -20 degrees and the snow falls for months on end.

In these remote villages, education does not rank high on their list of priorities, especially for girls. Even today, most fathers do not wish their daughters to go to school.

Every monday, Zahira wakes at dawn and leaves her village to go to Asni’s Education For All boarding school more than 22 kilometres away. She is in her first year of high school. Zahira must cross peaks and valleys, often in extreme conditions. After a long walk by herself she meets up with her two friends Zineb and Noura who live in another valley. On the way they read their lessons out loud and talk about their lives at school. Zahira always leads the way.

They have fun and share jokes but always worry about finding transportation once they have reached the highway because there are not many drivers who are prepared to take girls on board. Zahina works hard and has always been at the top of her class. She has earned a scholarship thanks to her brilliant results and her parents are very proud of her. She is among the first of her generation to go to school.

**Carlito, Argentina - Carlito loves school. He wants to stay in his native region, near his loved ones, and become a vet.**

Since he turned 6 Carlito has ridden a horse over 18 kilometres to get to school every day of the week, through the mountains and great plains of Patagonia. The son of a shepherd, Carlito (11 years old) lives in a remote corner of the Andes, in a tiny house with his father Gilberto, his mother Nelida and his younger sister Micaela. The parents sleep on the bare floor and leave the tiny bedroom to their children. Even though their life is simple, it is a happy one.

This year he is not alone on the way to school. His younger sister Micaela, only six years old now, goes with him every morning.

On their daily journey they travel through magnificent mountain scenery. Their horse, Chiverito, is much more than a simple mount. The extremely rough terrain with often punishing weather conditions demand a perfect complicity between Carlito and Chiverito.

Crossing the magnificent vistas immersed in the mystical atmosphere of the great plain, the young man and his little sister experience a veritable odyssey everyday on their journey to knowledge.

**Samuel, India - Samuel wants to become a doctor to help disabled children like himself.**

Samuel, 13 years old, is the eldest of three children. Born prematurely, he is disabled and cannot walk. No school in his native village could take him, so his mother Esther decided to move so that her son could have a normal education. The whole family now lives in Kuruthamaankadu, a fishing village in Southern India by the Bay of Bengal. Their hut, made of palm leaves, has no running water or electricity.

In Periyapattinam, the whole school works together so that the young boy can follow his lessons. Samuel is the only member of his family who can read. Because his diction isn’t very good he must push his voice in order to be understood, which requires great concentration and physical effort. Esther loves for her son to tell her stories. In India, school has only been mandatory since 2010, and today most families cannot afford to send all of their children.

Samuel cannot do anything by himself. His relationship with his two brothers is remarkable. To reach school each day they have to pull and push him in a wheelchair made of recycled bric-a-brac for more than 4 kilometres through sandy paths, rivers and palm orchards.