At The Week Junior, we know children care about what’s happening in the world around them, and we know they have opinions! We worked with YouGov, a company that creates polls, to conduct our third annual Junior Voices survey about what’s on kids’ minds and what they want adults to know. Of the 748 children ages 8 to 14 across the country who responded, 87% said kids should have a say in issues that affect them. Children also ranked the issues they care about most—inflation and the Russian invasion of Ukraine were at the top of the list—and said they want to help solve these problems. An impressive 82% want to inspire other kids to make positive changes. Here’s what else children had to say.

What do you think the most important news events have been so far in 2022?
It’s been a busy year! You said these were the top news stories up to now.

55% said...
Inflation (the rising cost of goods like food and gas)

50% said...
Russia invading Ukraine

38% said...
Covid-19 vaccine approved for the youngest children

34% said...
The call for gun safety

31% said...
Record heat waves and drought

Which newsmakers inspired you most this year?

1 Volodymyr Zelensky, president of Ukraine

2 Simone Biles, gymnast and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient

3 Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black female justice on the US Supreme Court

88% of kids think it’s important to learn about events around the world

87% think kids should have a say on issues that affect them

86% wish adults listened more to kids

82% want to inspire other kids to make positive changes

77% are not afraid to express their opinion if they disagree with something

72% believe their actions can make a difference in the world now
All about what kids think

What’s the first thing you would do if you were elected to public office?
You told us what your priorities would be if you were in charge.

What are the top issues you wish our nation’s leaders would address?
The actions of lawmakers affect us all. Your top six wishes were:

1. Manage inflation to bring down the price of goods
2. Take steps to protect people from gun violence
3. Solve food insecurity so everyone has enough to eat
4. Protect the environment
5. Make sure all kids get a good education
6. Provide everyone with access to healthcare

How did you make a difference in your community this year?
You were busy helping others! The top five ways you pitched in were:

1. Participated in a food, coat, or other drive
2. Supported someone in need
3. Donated time or money to a fundraiser
4. Volunteered at a food pantry, animal shelter, or other organization
5. Made and sold items such as food or jewelry for a cause

What topics could adults learn most about from kids?

47% Making sure all people are treated equally
42% Understanding and using technology
41% Standing up for what you believe in
36% Taking action to help the environment
30% Discussing and coping with feelings

If you could tell the adults of the world ONE THING, what would it be?

“Be kind and compassionate to one another.”
“Do more good deeds.”
“Don’t be afraid to talk about the hard issues.”
“Take a deep breath.”
“Make schools safe in America for all.”
“Get together as a community and make changes.”
“Listen to us! We are the future!”