



Short Story Competition for KS2 children

Notes for the teacher

Children's cancer charity Ben's Heroes Trust is running a short story competition to highlight the social impact on children following a cancer diagnosis.

In 2012 the charity CLIC Sargent looked at the educational and social impact of a cancer diagnosis on children in the report 'No Child With Cancer Left Out'. The report highlighted many issues associated with non-attendance at school due to their Cancer treatment.

"Many of these children are at a critical stage in their development – at a point in their primary school education where they are laying down the fundamentals of literacy and numeracy and building their emotional intelligence through friendships."

It was noted that 47% of parents said that their child had grown apart from friends because of their cancer diagnosis and treatment

One of the proposals made based on the report findings was to encourage primary schools to help children with cancer stay in touch with classmates when they are absent from school by encouraging phone calls and letters and by maximising the use of technology.

One of our aims at Ben's Heroes Trust is to take on projects to improve the quality of life of children with cancer. One of the ways we have done this is by building on the report suggestion of maintaining social links using modern technology by donating an iPad mini library to the children's cancer ward of University College Hospital in London so that the children being treated there can keep in touch with family and friends during long hospital stays via skype, facebook, and twitter. The iPad minis also allow them to research school work, use educational apps and to just play games to distract themselves from their boredom, isolation or during painful procedures. Following fantastic feedback

from this first project, we have since donated another iPad mini library to Bristol children's hospital and are now planning our third iPad mini library at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

It is very important to us that the children being treated for cancer on these units are able to maintain these vital links with family and friends during this extremely difficult and often scary time. We would like children to write a short story on the theme of '**Friendship**' to see how the children in your school view friends and the importance of having them around.

We would like them to write a short story of no more than 500 words, to be submitted on the application form (either typed or hand written) and then emailed to:

Fiona.Young@BensHeroesTrust.org

or posted to:

Ben's Heroes Trust, Newlands , Salisbury Road, Shootash, ROMSEY , SO51 6GA

by Friday 21st November 2014.

The winning stories will be published in our Autumn newsletter and receive a £35 book token.

The competition will be split into 4 categories; 7-9 year old girls and boys, and 10-11 year old girls and boys, and will be judged by two published children's authors, **Ed Wicke**, author of the fantastically funny 'Wicked Tales' Series and **Olivia Tuffin**, author of the Palomino Pony Stories.

The following guidelines have been produced for the children based on the KS2 National Curriculum for En3 Writing.



Guidelines for the children

- Think about who you are writing your story for - the audience
- Think about what you want to achieve with your story, what do you want people to think about when they read your story - the purpose
- Plan your story, think of a few different ideas until you come up with the best one
- Create settings and describe them so the reader knows where your story is happening
- Think about your characters then let your reader know more about them, are they nice, sporty, do they have a lot of friends, what do they look like?
- Create a plot! This is what happens in your story, make sure you know where the story is going to go and how it ends before you start to write it.
- Use grammar and vocabulary to make your story stand out.
- Develop your plan into a first draft then read through it to see how you could improve it in any way.
- Make sure you proof read your story to check that it makes sense to the reader (you could do this with a friend) and make sure that you have checked your spellings!

