

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Challenging Prejudice and Celebrating Diversity

Poems by 4th,
5th and 6th
class

**All Saints'
National School,
Blackrock**

Conall Wells Noor Burgess
Livi Lane Zofia Mackay Helena Molloy
Liam Phelan Liam Weir
Leo Honey Laura Murat Felix
Skye Turley David Dunne
Kaia Borzins Tomá Cagán Séamus
Eva Gontal Sreetcha
YOSULLIVAN
Jasme Turley Charlotte O'Donovan
SAM WEST Eilosa Rigo Mairéad
Amy Magee Aidan Conboy
Sam Madden Robyn O'Leary





FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to write a foreword for this wonderful series of books that challenge prejudice and celebrate diversity in so many vibrant and thought-provoking ways. Our dynamic libraries in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown always strive to be catalysts for the imagination, thereby encouraging and inspiring creativity. What better way than through such an inclusive and stimulating creative writing project devised by author Debbie Thomas between Winter 2021 and Spring 2022.

Debbie is a best-selling writer of five children's books, and she runs creative writing and story workshops in all sorts of places from schools and libraries to hospitals and direct provision centres. She is currently the Writer in Residence at Crumlin Children's Hospital and she loves encouraging children to write for fun. She uses creative writing to explore this world and other worlds and to highlight and celebrate **A World of Difference**.

A big thank you to Debbie, all the class teachers and school principals and most especially the enthusiastic and endlessly creative students at All Saints, Blackrock, Monkstown Educate Together, Oliver Plunkett School, Monkstown, Our Lady of Mercy, Booterstown, St. Joseph's National School, Tivoli Road and St. Nicholas Montessori, Dún Laoghaire.

I know you will enjoy reading these powerful poems and stories and the accompanying artwork as much as I did!

An Cathaoirleach Councillor Lettie McCarthy
February 2022





INTRODUCTION

Creative writing is a powerful weapon against prejudice. Stories and songs, poems and plays help us step into other people's shoes and see the world from different viewpoints. In two workshops during autumn 2021, the 4th, 5th and 6th class pupils at All Saints' National School explored the causes of, and cures for, prejudice through discussion and writing. You can read their wonderful poems here.

Congratulations to all the children who worked so hard and brought such fun to this serious subject. I loved watching you wonder and create. Many thanks to Principal Amanda MacGowan for welcoming me into the school at this challenging time, and for supervising the sessions so generously. And finally, a huge thank you to Dr. Marian Keyes, Senior Executive Librarian at dlr Lexicon, tireless champion of all things creative and the queen of can-do. It's been a privilege to work with you all.

Debbie Thomas, February 2022

A KIND OF PLANT

Kindness is at the heart of the fight against prejudice. The dictionary defines it as ‘the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.’ But what if it had roots and leaves, fruit and flowers? What if kindness were a plant?

The Kindness Flower

Kaia Berzins

6th Class

There is a little flower, attractive to a bee
Not growing near the sea
But in a pond full of koi fish
That make the water go swish-swish.
I wish I could own it, it’s one of a kind.
It feels as soft as the smoothest silk.
Its colour is as pure as milk.
I’ve seen one and been it.
It’s kindness.

A Kindness Plant

Noor Burgess

4th Class

A kindness plant, a kindness plant
Looks like a giant sunflower,
So beautiful and strange,
As big as you can imagine.
Smells like perfume
and acts like you.



What Flower is Kindness?

Eva Gonta
5th Class

What flower is kindness?
I wonder, I see.
I think of a daisy
But you might think differently.

It smells like a tulip
It smells like a rose
It smells like blossom
When the wind blows.

But let's not forget
That daisies are small
And you don't have to do something big
To be the best hero of all.

Kindness

George McEvoy
4th Class

It's tall
And blue
With yummy fruits.
It grows
In swamps
And smells good and sweet
It's pinky and
Soft and
Yummy.

The Kindness Tree

Eloisa McSweeney

4th Class

Kindness is a tree
Its fruit is round and shiny.
Never cut it down
For then its healing powers will never be found.
It smells like your favourite thing,
Its branches are twisted and thick,
Its leaves are yellowy green
And its fruit is pink.
It's found next to a river
If you know where to look,
Tucked into a nook.

The Honey Flower

Helena Money

5th Class

Kindness is a flower
It stretches up tall
It has a mouth
Pink petals
Sharp teeth.
It's yellow inside
And most importantly,
It smells of honey.





The Plant of Kindness

Leo Money

6th Class

It looks like a web,
Pale green and white.
It spreads in the shade
Where people are sad.
It grows till you stop it.
The flowers are small and simple
And its smell isn't strong
But when you don't tend it
It withers and dies.

Good

Lauren Murate Iglesias

4th Class

The flower of kindness
Produces good smells, happiness,
And that thing you like the most.
Its leaves in the wind are blowing,
And when its stem keeps growing
You'll know everything is good.

Growing Kindness

Gretchen O'Sullivan
5th Class

My kindness grows on trees and plants
And this is how it looks:
A great big stalk
With heart-shaped leaves
All speckled pink and green.
It withers down to tiny size
When people are acting mean
But bring back all the kindness
And it's big as you've ever seen.

My kindness grows on trees and plants
And this is how it smells:
A sweet linen aroma fills the room,
Heavenly it smells.
Keep up the kindness all day long
And you'll be hearing bells.

My kindness grows on trees and plants
And this is how it feels:
Glossy and clean
Soft and pristine
Keep this plant and you'll feel so serene.





A Kindness Plant

Charlotte O'Donovan
5th Class

If kindness was a plant
It would look like
The unicorn version of lavender,
Pink and gold and shimmery.
Whenever someone is kind
Or does a good deed
The plant will grow.
It smells like roses
And let's not forget,
It feels like you're touching a cloud.

Flower

Skye Turnly
4th Class

It's nice and smells of honey,
Skyeland's favourite place.
The koi fish swaying
In the cold water.
Peach trees everywhere,
Skyeland's favourite place.
Dolphins jumping by the coral,
Skyeland's favourite place.
The peaches and the peach tree sloths too –
My favourite place!

My Mango Pond

Conall Wells

4th Class

It looks like the water is perfectly even
The colours are whatever mood you're feeling
There is a lovely tree that grows mangoes.
It smells like mangoes
And the pond's true colour is lovely mangoes.

Seasons of Kindness

Liam Weimann

5th Class

Yellow buttercups grow in the garden.
Leaves keep falling,
Getting colder and darker.
Kids fighting in the snow
Snow melting every day.
Please winter, come back.





WHERE I BELONG

To accept other people, we need to feel accepted ourselves.
Everyone longs to belong: to a group or a person, a family or a friend ... or a place.

Safe

Isabel Canz-Cisneros

6th Class

I feel I belong in my living room.
That's where I feel calm.
My brother is drawing, I assume,
And working is my mom.

Look and see, my cat is asleep
I'm reading a book
With the pillows in a heap.

A dim small light
Shines into the night.
With my family near,
I feel safe here.



In the City

Tomás Canz-Cisneros
5th Class

The lights fill the sky.
I feel happy. Why?
I like this place
With car engines and plates.
The buildings are warm,
The people all swarm.
The streets where cars go
Make me feel so
Warm and tingly,
Lights mixing mingly.
The restaurant food
Makes me feel so good.
Who's that over there?
Is it the mayor?
The city centre
Makes me feel better!





Adventures in a Book

Reading in my bedroom
So many things can happen.
I can raid an old tomb,
Battle monsters from the gloom,
Take down a fierce dragon,
Watch pirates drink from a flagon.

Daniel Hourican

5th Class

My Team

Football is fun,
Even better with my friends
Because we're playing together.
We communicate a lot –
And that gets us a goal!

Jafar Khashan

5th Class

The Sitting Room

The TV is on
There's a bowl of popcorn
Kids are shouting and having fun.
My sister arguing with Dad and Mum -
My sitting room is where I belong.

Lúi Lane

4th Class

Calm

Amy Magee

5th Class

Everything's calm,
Nothing to worry me.
The sun powers down,
Sea crashes on the rocks.
Birds and flowers,
Children shouting
In the strong salt air.
A bright light shines through me,
All worries blow away.
I run and play
On the soft, silky sand
And into the sea.
It's cold at first
Then warm and nice –
The perfect holiday.





Best Friends

Sam McFadden

5th Class

With my best friend on an evening walk
Bushes, cars, plants
The road, a church and people.
Wind blowing, flowers growing –
I feel calm and happy.

Happy

Jasmine Turnly

6th Class

In my room
I listen to music and read.
I look out of my window
And see my dog playing.
I smell the pages of my book.
I always feel happy here.

Satisfied

Sam West

6th Class

I can see the sea
Crashing against rocks,
The warmth of the fire
And gulls crying.
The evening light fades quickly.
There's a smell of vegetables and meaty stew.
Satisfaction overwhelms my body.






Driftwood

Robyn O'Leary

5th Class

I am like
A piece of driftwood.
I don't belong
Anywhere. But if
I had to choose somewhere
I would choose the stables.
I get on Blackjack or Calvin,
Forget everyone around me
And focus on the ride.
I hear hooves
Clip clop
Clip clop.
The swish of a mane
And we're galloping away,
Galloping away.



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