



A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Creative writing
by sixth class

**Monkstown
Educate Together
National
School**

Challenging Prejudice and
Celebrating Diversity



Kuba frankie Ila Tommaso Marty Ryan Lorenzo Seren McBreary
 Krasniewicz Adonnell Wilson Pelizzeni Oboole Sale Sean Patchell
 Aisling Little Aine Wyatt A. Burke RICHARD
 Evelyn Jamison brace J. Mark feeney BUCKLEY Glodie
 Gabriella Scrousta Kayla Eganova Anna Jennings muller Finlay
 Jaelyn Kaufman Arthur Burdock Will Butler Jino Burke Cal Moya norra
 Hunley Stone



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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 points of view. In two workshops during autumn 2021, Mr. Adams' class explored the causes of, and cures for, prejudice. They empathised with ugly creatures and wrote poems to Planet Earth. You can read their wonderful work here.

Congratulations to all the authors who participated and wrote so beautifully. Many thanks to Neil Adams for welcoming and supporting the sessions at such a challenging time for schools. And finally, a huge thank you to Dr. Marian Keyes, Senior Executive Librarian at dlr Lexlcon, 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

DEAR HUMANS




Prejudice often stems from fear or ignorance. It's easy to judge unfairly or jump to the wrong conclusions when we're scared or don't understand a situation, a group, a person ... or an animal. Imagine stepping into the paws, claws, scales or tails of the creature you fear or despise the most. And imagine if that creature wrote a letter, with a few things to say about human beings.

Jodi Benwell

6th Class

Dear Humans,

I know you think I'm a big, scary, human-eating monster, but I'm actually way more than that. You have such an amazing life where you can just walk into Tesco and buy your weekly dinners, while I'm out here in the freezing ocean risking my life to get food. I might have big scary teeth but I don't have knives. I may be three times your size but there aren't seven billion of me. Also, you think humans are my favourite food, but I don't even like you that much. You guys just think you're delicious. But it goes both ways. There are more sharks killed by humans every year than there are humans killed by sharks. Just think about that. My cousin Johnny died only two weeks ago. We couldn't find a body so there was no funeral. Auntie Jan was devastated. This happened all because of you humans. When I was little, my dream was to become an actor in all the big movies like my idol Jaws. He's so amazing. But because of you big, scary, mean humans, that will never happen. Whenever I see a boat, I also see my life flash before my eyes. So next time you see me, maybe just leave me be. (And also, if you ever see Jaws, say Tom was asking after him.)



From Tom



Richard Costello Buckley

6th Class

Dear Humans,

I'm writing to tell you what a wonderful rat I am. Have you ever stopped to think what it's like to be a rat? Humans have done horrible things to me. They treat me like a piece of trash. It makes me feel really sad. No one likes me. It is very hard to deal with, when the only ones who like me are my fellow rats. I hope that one day humans will like me too.

Kayla Egan

6th Class

Dear Humans,

I'm writing to tell you what a wonderful tarantula I am. It's not fair. We are judged and called ugly all the time. People are scared of us, but we only bite if you annoy us. You think we should be caged and that we're meant to be kept in closed spaces. It doesn't make me feel good because we need to be able to roam around and we only bite when we're feeling threatened. I would like to be left alone and let out of my cage. I would like to be respected by humans and I would like to have a family.

Yours sadly,

Tarantula

Max Feeney

6th Class

Dear Humans,

Have you ever thought what it's like to be a jellyfish? I'm sorry that I sting you. I don't mean to, I just need to do it to survive. It's your fault for swimming into me. I just go with the flow of the tides. I would like it if you didn't throw me out of the water. That makes me feel very sad.

Thank you for cooperating.

From Jellyfish

Myles Fitzgerald

6th Class

Dear Humans,

You need to know what a wonderful cockroach I am. It's no joke, you know. Every day I watch my friends being squished. At least I can survive animal extinction. I don't know why you hate me. Maybe it's my mobile legs or my disease.





Maya Horca Stone

6th Class

Dear Humans,

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a snake? I bet you haven't. You humans have homes with perfect beds and food that you get by driving only two minutes to the supermarket. Unlike me. I have to wrestle a bear just to get food for myself and my baby snakes. And humans, please stop climbing trees and ruining my nests that I spend the whole day building for my babies. If you don't, I might have to bite you. Ha!

Eva Lily Jamison

6th Class

Dear Humans,

I am writing to tell you what a wonderful lion's mane jellyfish I am. Day in, day out I have to protect small fish. I mean, you humans don't get it, do you? All you can think of is what's scary about me, like my long stinging tentacles. You never admire my bright colours or the fact that I'm as long as a blue whale. You are so uncaring and shel-fish (ha ha, get it?).

Taelen Kauffmann

6th Class

Dear Humans,

I'm writing to tell you what an amazing wet sloth I am. Humans don't like me because, when I get wet, I look like a soggy monkey. My hair looks like human flesh that is peeling off. Humans also hate my long nails. When I grow older I want to be a chimpanzee. I would like to be treated as if I'm a loyal dog. I would also like to go to school so that people will treat me better.

Tommaso Pelizzeni

6th Class

Dear Humans,

I know that most of you find me disgusting but if you know what I go through, you might see me differently.

First of all, I might seem small, but my legs are very heavy. That's why I'm so dangly. And because you find me so revolting, you like to squish me. Imagine a giant puffy, peach hand coming towards you. That's what I see every day. Half the time, I don't even know where I'm going. There's a weird kind of wave that is so strong. I overheard you humans calling it 'wind'. If I'm inside a concrete building, when I try to get out, I crash against a hard, transparent substance. It hurts a lot to bang against it. I might actually have brain damage.

Yours confused,

Daddy Longlegs





Aisling Little

6th Class

Dear Humans,

It's no picnic being a rat. People think we are gross, disgusting and dirty. They think our tails are long and ugly and our fur is manky and matted. It's assumed that we live in sewers and scurry around houses looking for cheese. The truth is, I don't even like cheese – I'm lactose-intolerant. I don't live in a sewer either but in a hole near the sea, and my fur is NOT matted. People treat me as a menace but I'm not. I'm only in people's houses sometimes in the winter when I need food. Mice are more house rodents.

Humans also try to catch me in their nasty traps. Luckily I have never been caught but my friend once was, in one of those nasty, sticky traps that are like torture. Honestly, I would rather die! I wouldn't even go into houses if people left food out for us in the winter. We could take what we needed and go back to our homes.

I hope that one day I can live in a big hole with soft leaves and lots of tomatoes. I think gerbils have it easy. They get to live in nice cages with straw, food and unlimited water. Please treat rats better! We can't help how we look.

#StandforRats.

Elodie O' Brien

6th Class

Dear Humans,

It's hard being a moth. I am kind and friendly and sometimes fluffy. I don't know why you hate me flying with my pretty wings. Butterflies are way overrated. My colours are much more natural. I can be cute so don't be mean.

Thanks.

Frankie O' Donnell

6th Class

Dear Humans,

I am a wonderful crocodile. It's not easy, you know, when people scream every time they see you. Then they try to kill you so that they can make leather boots out of your skin. I have to hide in the water so I don't get shot. Please stop and think about what we go through every day.

Love Croc





Seán Patchell

6th Class

Dear Humans,

It's a hard life being a maggot. We have to try to find food all the time and other animals get most of it. We could be eating a dead bird when someone comes and picks it up with gloves and puts us all in a bin. I'd like to be left in peace and quiet to eat dead birds.

Yours sincerely,

Maggot

Marty Ryan O'Toole

6th Class

Dear Humans,

I'm tiny – how can you be scared of me? I only bite if you disrupt me. If you want to be bitten by a spider then go for a tarantula, not a black widow like me. You're so much bigger than me and your species is much more scary. Don't hurt me and I won't hurt you!

From BW

Lorenzo Sale

6th Class

Dear Humans,

It's not easy being a leech. If you think of it from our point of view, you'd be terrified. We barely survive, getting just a fraction of a millimetre of blood. We are terrified of being stepped on and exterminated. And anything that sees us will get super-scared and run away, which means we've lost our meal and, worse, we feel sad to be treated like that.

Gabriella Scrowston

6th Class

Dear Humans,

I am a gorgeous rat. My skin is soft and furry. In the rat kingdom I am flawless and told I should model. Even if I'm not a 10/10 in your world, I def am in mine, sweeties. Have you seen my legs? I have a beaut summer bod and my eyebrows are in line.





WHAT ON EARTH?

It's easy to focus on the differences between people. But the view from space reminds us that we have so much more in common; we walk and talk, work and play, laugh and love and live together on this big but small, tough yet fragile ball. If you could talk to the Earth, what would you say?

Vencel Ba'nkuti

6th Class

I would like to make
A woolly scarf
To wrap you up and keep you safe
From all the scary things out there,
Protect you from your nightmares.

Arthur Burdock

6th Class

Earth, you're beautiful
I love your mountains, seas and trees,
The sun, the sky and bees
I hate the hardships, death and disease.

Do you have a mother
A father, sister, brother?
Is Mars your best friend
And the Moon your family?

Juno Burke

6th Class

I'm sorry for what we humans have done.
You've given us beautiful views,
extraordinary creatures,
and we've repaid you
with pollution and climate change.
You deserve to be loved and cared for,
treasured and nurtured,
not treated like this.
I'm sorry.

Romy Burke

6th Class

What is your favourite colour?
Who is your best friend?
What is your favourite country?
How much money do you spend?

What do you buy in the market?
Which season do you like best?
Do you go to Planet School?
Did you pass the end-of-term test?

How long do you spend awake each day
Circling around the sun?
To us you seem so very old
But to you you've just begun!





Elin Carlsson

6th Class

Hello Earth.
Do you like your name?
You're very beautiful,
Do you feel pain?

Is the Moon friendly?
Is it hard being a planet?
Why are some spiders deadly?

Which do you prefer,
Winter or summer?
Are you lonely out in space?
I promise you Earth, you're a fun place.

Grace Doheny

6th Class

What's it like floating up in space?
You are dying and you can't do anything:
Does that make you sad?
Are you anxious, are you at peace?
We have so many problems down here,
I'm not sure if you knew.
Everything is dying
And we don't know what to do.
If you could get rid of all humans
Would you?

Cal Hurley

6th Class

Climate change, climate change
It's out of reach
To stop completely
But maybe we
Can slow its path down.
In Ireland wetter winters
And hotter summers.
Climate change, oh climate change
Is it too late to stop?

Jakub Krasniewicz

6th Class

The earth is blue,
green and round
With lots of sounds –
Trees rustling
Cats meowing
Birds twittering.
I love the earth.





Astrid Larsson

6th Class

My water has frozen
My leaves have died
Yet still I feel warm
Somewhere inside

*What's wrong with you, earth?
What can you feel?
What can I do to help you heal?*

Winter has come
With a cough and a sneeze.
I long for spring
With its gentle breeze.

*Mother Earth, you'll rise again
I'll keep your hope shining
Until the end.*

Florence Somerville Jennings

6th Class

I'm sorry about that
I'm sorry about this
I'm sorry for everything
I'm sorry that we
Went too far
And can't turn back
Now.

Seren-Terese McBrearty

6th Class

You're amazing but scary
With your sea so deep
Your sky so high
Your trees so tall
Your bushes so small
Your snow so cold
And sun so bright.
I admire and respect you,
Will try to protect you.

Climate change is out of reach to stop
But we can slow its path down.
Oh climate change, climate change
Are we an experiment gone wrong?

Finlay Timpson

6th Class

Trees, they make you go wow.
You could just bend over and bow.
Dogs, cats, mats, flats,
all in one area -
earth is magical when you think about it.
When you catch a trout you should think about it.
From seas to trees to meat to me,
I have a responsibility
to look after the earth.





Alannah Sibley

6th Class

I will not praise you for
Mountains, rivers, forests, rain.
I will not blame you for
Fire, storms, death, pain.

That is not your doing.

Does it hurt you when
Humans burn your heart?
Does it kill you when
They tear your world apart?

That is not your doing.

Do you ever feel
Insignificant, abandoned, alone,
When we have burned you
Set fire to our home?

That is not your doing.
That is ours.

Áine Wyatt

6th Class

Mother of all beings
Creator of life
Where all things thrive
From the top of Mount Everest
To the bottom of the sea,
The air that we breathe
And everything in between
We must remember she made it all.
We are her guests
Not her owners.





Dishing little Mart feeney R. Burch
Eva Lily Jamison brace Arthur
Doherty Burdock
Gabriella Kayla Egan Tommaso
Scrouston
Jaels Kauffmann Elin Pelizzeni
Séar Patchell áine wyatt Marty Ryan Wilson
Kuba Lorenzo O'toole Seren McBrearty
Krasniewicz Sale RICHARD
Jodi frankie BUCKLEY Elodie
Odonnell O'brian
Lourence Jennings mules Finlay
FitzGerald Timpson Lostrid
Walter Burke Cal Maya horca
Hurley Stone

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