

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Challenging Prejudice and
Celebrating Diversity

Creative writing
by Ms. Hooper's
class

**Oliver
Plunkett
School**

Brodie Kelly wood
Darragh carolan keegan
Eilíab Dwyer
Ethan ketlett
Shane Garvey
ANDRE Adair Éipinn Mooney
Daniel Lynham Noble
Fionn Gill Harry Quinn





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, Ms. Hooper's class explored the causes of, and cures for, prejudice. Friendship flowers blossomed, aliens landed and Rapunzel's witch told her side of the story. You can read their wonderful work here.

Congratulations to all the young authors: André Adão, Darragh Carolan Keegan, Shane Garvey, Fionn Gill, Ethan Kellett, Brodie Kelly Wood, Daniel Lynham Noble, Éirinn Mooney and Harry Quinn. Your imaginations flew and your ideas flowed. Many thanks to Aileen Hooper for welcoming me into the class and for facilitating the workshops with such enthusiasm and creativity. 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.

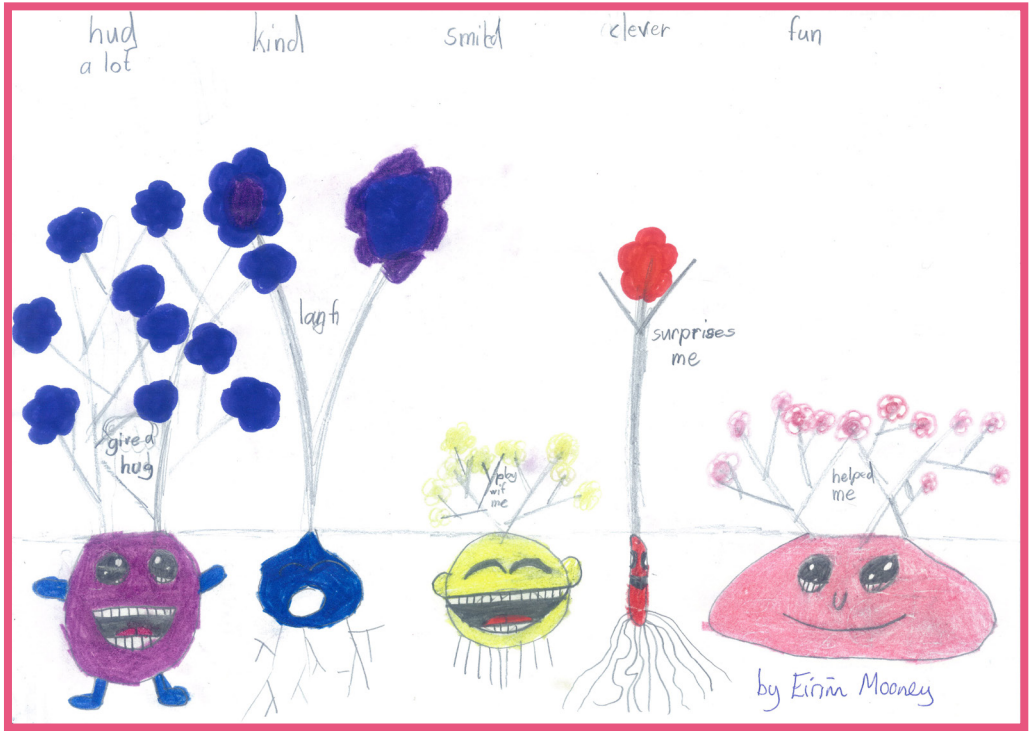
Debbie Thomas
February 2022

FRIENDSHIP FLOWERS

Friendship is an antidote to the poison of prejudice. But friends, like flowers, need tending and nurturing. What seeds must be sown, and what qualities added, to feed and water a friendship? What buds, leaves and fruit will grow?

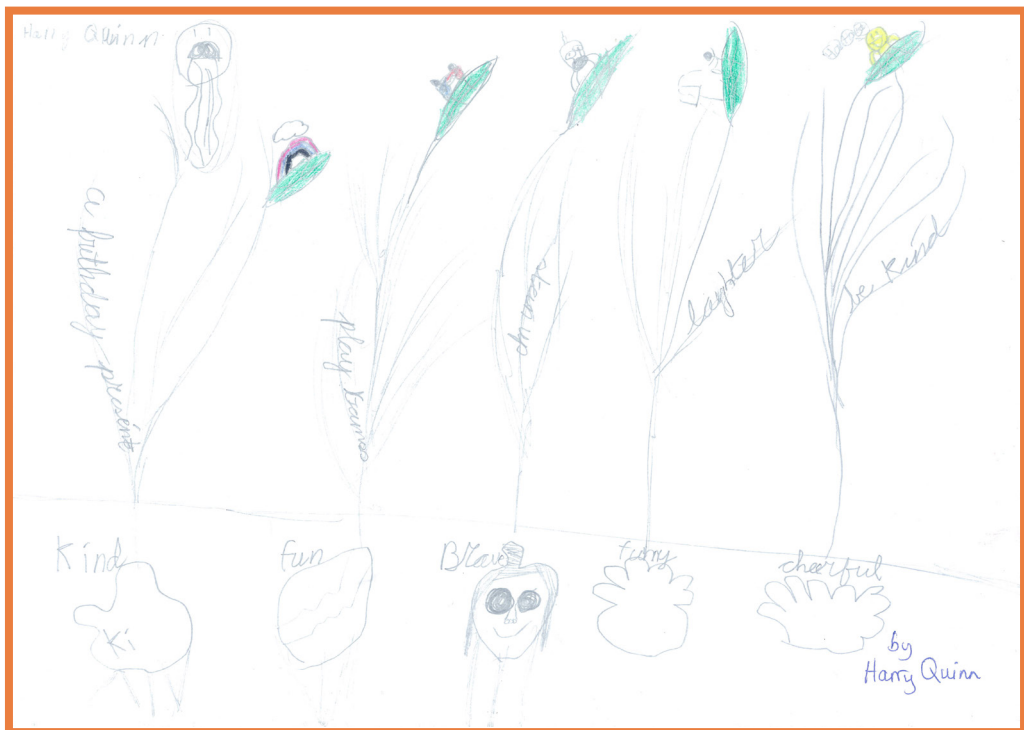


by Daniel Lynham Noble



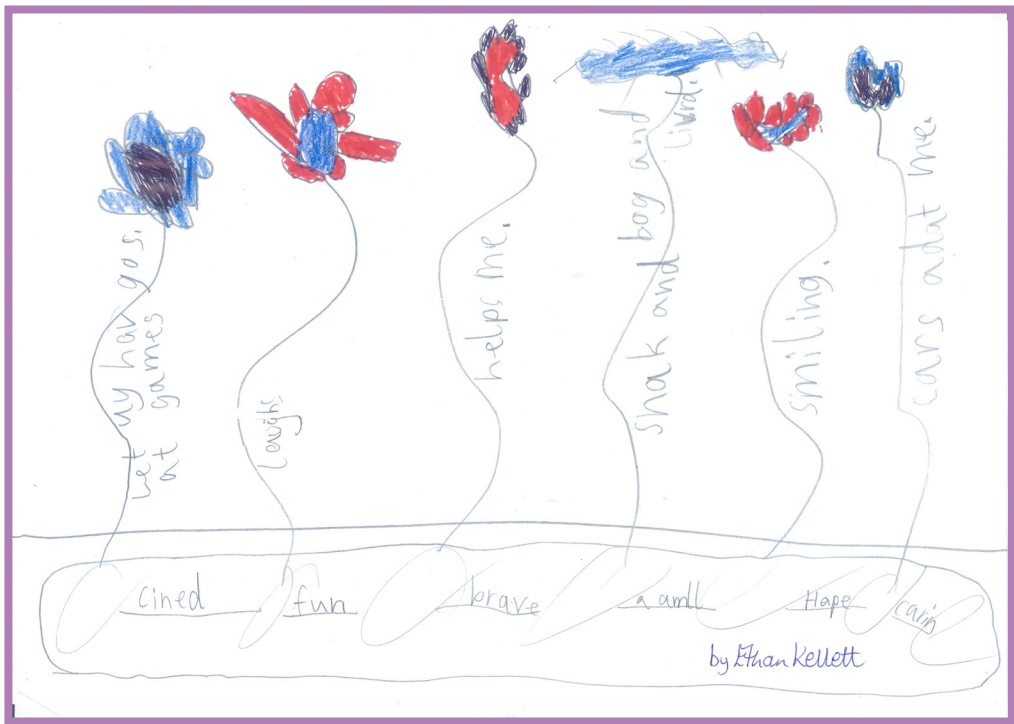
by Eirinn Mooney



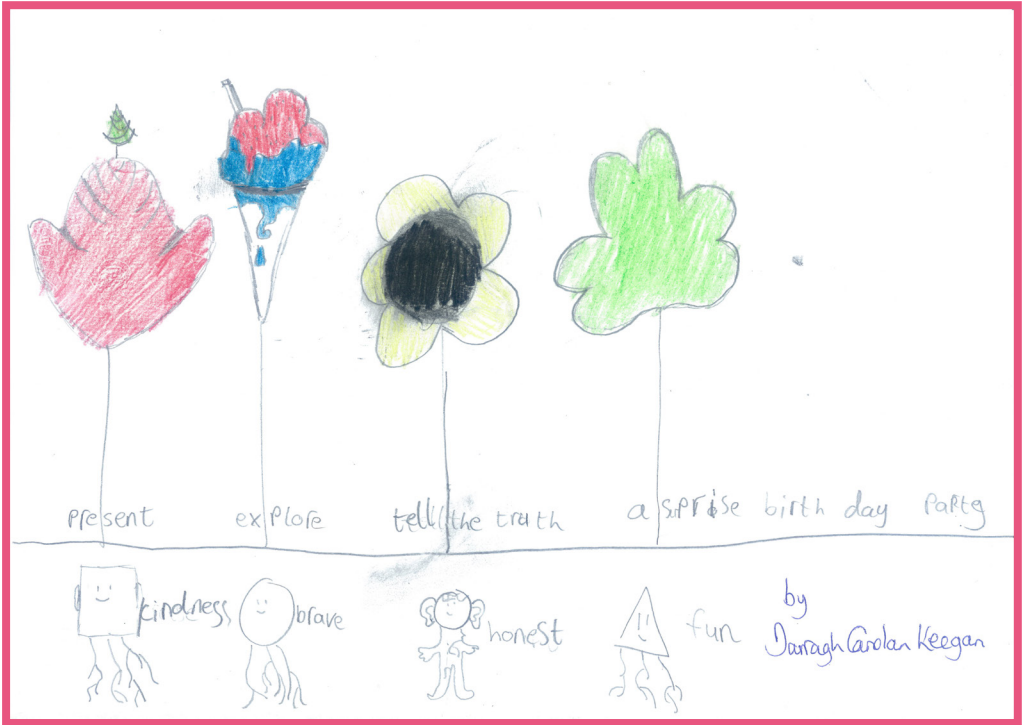


by Harry Quinn





by Ethan Kellett

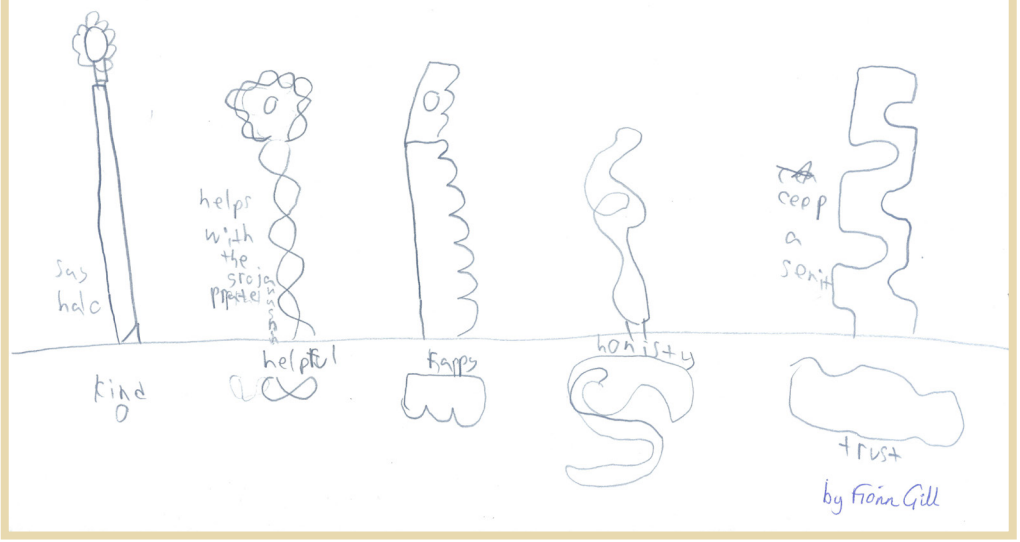


by Darragh Carolan Keegan





friendship flowers



by Fionn Gill





by André Adão





WITCH STORY?

It's easier to judge someone unfairly when we don't know their story. But if we stop to listen to the experiences and events that have shaped them, we can understand and empathise with the choices they have made. Our enemies, too, have hearts, hopes and dreams. Even the bad guys want to be loved ... like the witch in the story of Rapunzel. Appearing in court after her arrest for imprisoning a girl and pushing a prince off a tower, she had her own version of events ...

Judge: Ms. Witch, why were you living alone in a tower?

Witch: My husband died and I had to have a good place to stay without him. But I had a sickness as well.' *André*

I felt sad living on my own. But people weren't nice to me. They chased me out of the village. *Brodie*

I'd done nothing bad at all. *Harry*

I was blamed for a magic curse. *Shane*

Judge: Why did you force your neighbours to trade the healing plant for their baby girl, Ms. Witch? It seems rather harsh.

Witch: When the neighbour came this was my chance to have a daughter. I'd never had one of my own and I so wanted a child. *Daniel*

That man had just broken into my property! And he tried to steal something valuable! So I call my offer a fair trade: something to cure his wife's sickness in return for their child. I saw the opportunity and took it. *André*

I grew the plant but I didn't know it was healing. I was just a really good gardener. **Fionn**

I knew that the healing plant might not work on the wife. I took the baby so that, if she died, I could look after the child. **Shane**

I like my plants so if someone tried to take one, I'd be annoyed. If you don't have a child, you might go to extremes. **Ms. Hooper**

Judge: Hmm ... but why did you lock the girl in a tower?

Witch: Because she was dangerous. Her hair could be used for evil. **Shane**

To protect Rapunzel if anyone tried to take her. **Fionn**

So she wouldn't get married and leave this old lady on her own. **Daniel**

In case the king sent soldiers out to get the child. **Brodie**

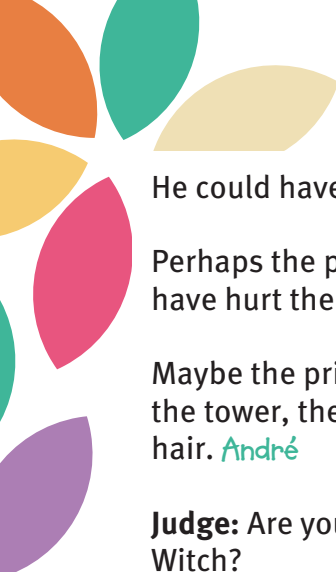
Rapunzel was looking through her mother's book. It had evil spells and she learned some of them. I had to protect the world from her. She wasn't such a good child. **Harry**

The tower kept Rapunzel safe from magical animals that lived in the forest. I didn't want her to be poisoned or to die from disease. **André**

Judge: And what about the prince? Why didn't you want Rapunzel to see him?

Witch: Because if she liked him, she might leave me. **Darragh**





He could have been a bad prince! **Shane**

Perhaps the prince could have hurt Rapunzel. Or she could have hurt the prince! **Daniel**

Maybe the prince was armed and wanted to kill everyone in the tower, then take the magic properties from Rapunzel's hair. **André**

Judge: Are you glad they lived happily ever after, Ms. Witch?

Witch: I'm mad about it. **Daniel**

I'm happy because maybe now I can have some grandchildren. **André**

I'm not happy so I'll kill the prince when I get out of jail because he took Rapunzel away. **Darragh**

I'm happy because they built a tiny house next to the tower. And also, if the prince tries to harm Rapunzel, I have a spray for his eyes to make him blind again. **Shane**

ALIEN REPORT

Tall or small, Irish or Iranian, blond or black-haired ... whatever our differences, we have so much more in common with each other. Not least our home: this beautiful Planet Earth. What would aliens make of us all? Imagine a Martian observing our species and reporting back to Mars HQ...

The cleverest behaviour of human beings:

Darragh: They build shopping centres where you can buy anything.

Shane: They have somehow made a box that can trap animals and people called a 'phone.' But there's no red cheese on earth – shame.

Fionn: Humans make adverts that look better than the actual product.

Ethan: They have things called couches that make them get bigger and wider.

Brodie: Humans play a game with a ball, a net and their feet.

Ms. Hooper: They invented the wheel. Without it there would be no technology.

The most stupid thing about humans:

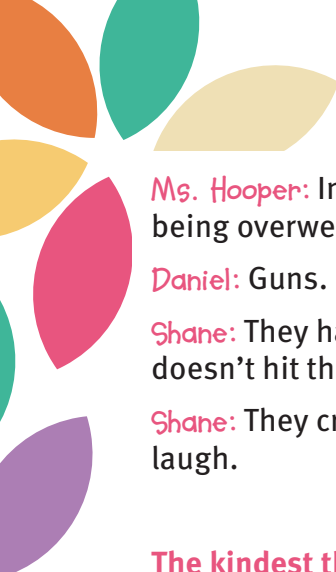
André: Their cheese. It smells really bad.

Fionn: They give out to each other for no reason.

Ethan: They kill each other and dirty the planet.

Harry: The new iPhones are the same as the old ones, just with more cameras.





Ms. Hooper: In one half of the world people are dying from being overweight and in the other half they are starving.

Daniel: Guns.

Shane: They have gravity so they can't float. Their moon doesn't hit their planet once every three minutes.

Shane: They create suffering for other people to make them laugh.

The kindest thing about humans:

Brodie: Adopting puppies.

Ethan: They sometimes look after animals.

André: They love each other and animals, especially seals.

Daniel: Pigeons and otters.

Darragh: They look after animals and heal them.

Shane: They treat their god very well. It's called 'Cat'.

Ms. Hooper: There are people who look after those with disabilities for years and years.

The funniest thing:

André: Humans think the most dangerous creature is the box jellyfish when really it's the black widow.

Shane: Their cars don't float.

Daniel: Cat videos and birds looking at their reflections.

Ethan: They wear clothes instead of body armour.

André: They get pooped on by animals.

Darragh: Dogs pooping on windows.

Ms. Hooper: Humans think they can rule the dog or cat but really it's the other way round.

What do humans need to learn?

Ethan: How to make cars float.

Brodie: How to fly and keep their planet clean.

André: How to get rid of their stupidity so that they can look after the planet and make it the best in the universe.

Shane: How to make Martian cheese.

What can humans teach Martians?

Darragh: How to drive a car.

Shane: How not to drive a car off a cliff. How to use gravity to stay on the ground.

Ethan: All the types of cheese on earth.

Ms. Hooper: Nothing because we've made such a mess of earth. They can learn from our mistakes.



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