

British Council

**Story-Writing
Competition
Winning entries
2025-26**

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The Story-Writing Competition: Introduction

Each year, as part of our YL Extra programme, we run a series of competitions open to British Council Young Learners of all ages.

This year, we ran our first Story-Writing Competition to encourage our students to write creatively. The theme was ‘friendship’.

In this booklet, you can read the stories written by our winners. The very best stories had a coherent structure, powerful language to engage the reader, and showcased the writer’s creativity.

The stories found here have not been edited; they appear exactly as the author intended.

Congratulations to our winners, and to all participants!

Florence A.L.

Primary Plus 1
6 years old

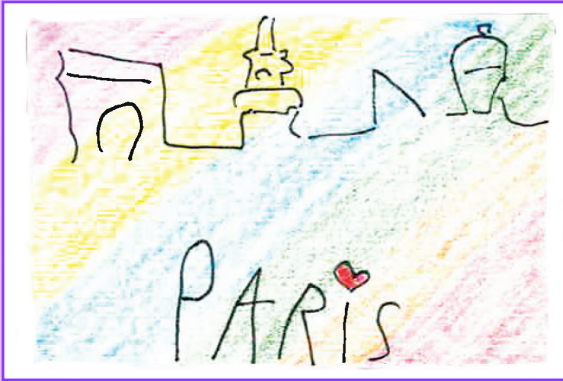


1
It was Dan's first day in Paris. He was lonely. He decided to go to coffee shop and planing his day.

2

Near him one teddy bear smiled. They introduced him.





3

The bear told him I show you Paris. They visited Effile Tower church, museum and take some photoes.

4

They happy and eating croissants.



5

The end Bear said It's time to leave Dan. Goodbye.



Alice D.

Primary Plus 3

8 years old

1



One day, the cat and the dog went on an adventure. They were walking through a forest on a long path.

2

Suddenly, they had a robin singing on a beautiful tree. "Join us," said the cat.





3

Then near a bush, they saw a rabbit skipping. “Be part of our adventure” said the dog.

4

It was raining. A hedgehog was afraid of the storm. Follow us, with friends it’s always great”!



5

They all arrived in Paris and discovered the Eiffel tower.



Claire W.

Primary Plus 5

9 years old

It was Tom's first day at his new school and he was really scared. The morning passed as quick as the light and it was breaktime. The other students didn't seem to want to play with him. He asked a group of boys if he could play with them, and they just ignored him. "Breaktime is finished!" the teacher called. They returned to class and Tom sat down and continued to reach the text the teacher gave them. One hour past after... "Lunchtime!" said the teacher. They rushed to the cafeteria and ate quickly. This time, Tom brought a book to read, he wasn't going to ask the students again. But then, a boy came to say "I'm sorry for this morning, I didn't mean it, just didn't wanted to lose friends. Wanted to be my friend? Maxime, you?" "Tom," he answered. "C'mon let's play soccer!"

45 min passed, and it was the end of lunchtime. When every student sat down, the teacher began the class with math...

After long hour of Math, it was finally the afternoon breaktime and Tom joined Maxime who was waiting for him. They played basketball and returned to class where their teacher was waiting for them. “We had no time to waste,” she called. “Write your homework and tidy up!”

Back home, Tom ate dinner and had already done his homework when his dad was back from work. He dropped himself in the cozy bed. “Good night, Tom,” his mom whispered. “Thanks, mom,” he murmured, as his mom switched off the lights and disappeared into the kitchen. This day wasn’t so bad at all, he thought, and closed his eyes, preparing himself for another day.



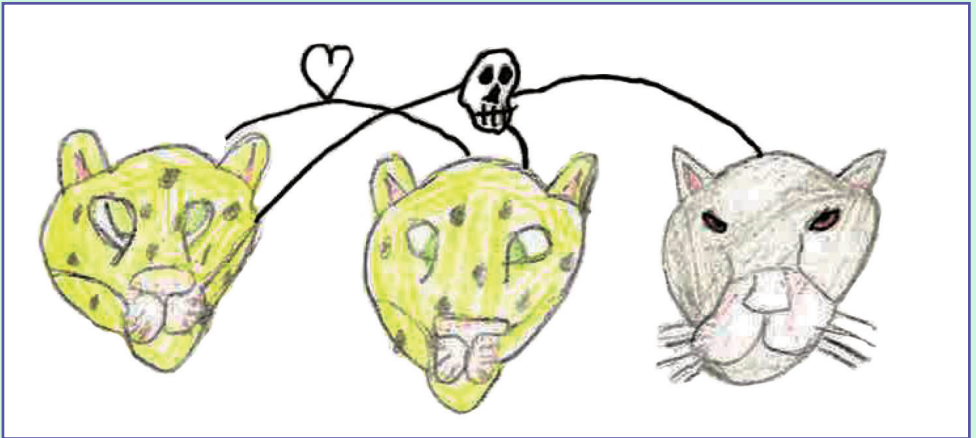
Quillian M.

Bilingual 10

11 years old

In a dark green rainforest, there were two jaguars, Chen and Joshua, and they were best friends. They lived in an ancient temple and were very close. They never left this temple, because of the jungle: there were lots of dragons. However, they yearned to explore the jungle. So one day, Chen and Joshua went out into jungle to explore, and boy, did they enjoy themselves! They were rolling in the crispy leaves, listening to birds singing and the gush of a nearby waterfall; and playing in the stream. Soon, it was nighttime when the creatures come to hunt. However, they hadn't noticed that a terrifying panther that had been lurking in the shadows was staring at them. Chen and Josua went more often to the jungle and the panther knew that. One day, the panther chose to attack, it quietly jumped down from its tree and stealthily closed in on them. Then, suddenly, it pounced. Without warning, the panther's claws dug

into Chen's skin! So then Joshua leapt and threatened to attack the panther, but deep down inside, he was terrified. Joshua took Chen and ran back to the temple at full speed. Chen was badly wounded and in pain, so Joshua went to the jungle in search of help. He met a rabbit and asked him if he knew how to heal wounds, fortunately, he did. So with his help, Chen healed over time. After that they still went out but they always promised to have each other's back.



Alexandre D.

A2 collège

12 years old

Scary Match

‘Bzzz!’ I looked at my phone. It was a text from Mark, my best friend. I met him when I was four. But the text sounded unusually strange. ‘Hi, come immediately at Envillard Street, number thirteen. Your old friend, Mark.’

I rushed out there. It was a big and dark gym. There were three men carrying revolvers. As we entered the gym, Thomas, our friend, was in a cage. He was afraid and sad. We asked him: ‘What are you doing here, Thomas?’

‘What are YOU doing here?’ said one of the gangsters. ‘If you defeat us in a football match, we will set you free. Otherwise... you will be killed.’

Mark, Thomas and I were in the red team and the gangsters in the blue one. I said to Mark and Thomas: ‘We are best friends, we can do it!’

The match started. After three goals from the blue team, Thomas was scared and whispered: 'What can we do?'

But Mark and I insisted: 'We are friends forever!' Then, four goals from the red team and the match ended. We won!

The police rescued us and arrested the criminals. We cried: 'We are friends forever! Together, we can achieve anything!'

Maria P.C.

B2 collège

14 years old

Friendship is for life

‘Bzzz!’ I looked at my phone. It was a text from someone I hadn’t spoken to in a long time. It said: “Hi Maria, how are you? I know that it’s a little bit sudden and that we haven’t seen each other the last 15 years but I’m on vacation in Canada and I was wondering if it’s possible that we see each other again, just for a bit.”

The message from Juliette (a really good old friend that I had lost contact with because we’ve been living in different countries), surprised me. I didn’t expect this kind of message announcing her arriving in Canada especially in this time of the year. A part of me was really happy and said to my brain “go for it” but another part had a bad feeling about it. I agreed straight away and we put our own thoughts together and agreed for 30m in the afternoon at the Long beach.

I was so excited that I jumped everywhere in my office.

Finally, the time of our meeting arrive and I went at Long beach located at a five minute walk from my office. I waited for her, knowing that she is never on time. When I saw her, big tears ran on my cheeks froze by the winter cold. She had changed a lot, she had become thinner and had lost her hair. Then I realized that she wanted to see me to say goodbye. She carried on walking on my way, her body trying to hold beside this cold weather. I felt sadness invade me and all my thoughts concentrating on her.

We talked all the afternoon about our lives, jobs and family. I learned that it had been two years that she had been trying to fight her sickness and that the doctors said there was nothing to do. She was asking me to visit her and to be present when she would be gone.

The week after, I was staring at her bed at hospital, waiting for her final breath, when she whispered “Thank you” and her eyes closed with a smile on her face.

A part of my heart broke and I felt an empty space.

Juliette E.

B2 First

13 years old

I thought I could handle everything on my own. This is the story of how I learned to ask for help.

Let me first introduce myself: my name is Sir Sonic Moronic Acid. A funny name, isn't it? But people usually call me Sony. Also, I am the most famous scientist the planet had ever known until 3231, which is my birth year. Enough with the chit-chat, I have a story to narrate.

It all happened a few years ago, in my laboratory, which is, by the way, the most developed lab of all time. I was trying to invent shoes with umbrellas on them so my feet wouldn't get wet while it rained, when a brilliant idea crossed my mind. An idea that any scientist had ever been thinking of since the earth existed. I was about to create the first biological rewriting tool. This was the most difficult thing I had ever made. At this moment I was completely irrational and didn't think about what could be the consequences of my invention.

The next day, I had planned to go to the restaurant with my friends and I was really excited to tell them about my marvelous creation. I am not going to go further into the details, however their reactions were far from what I was expecting. They all wanted to help me because if this powerful machine was unluckily poorly produced, it could turn out to be harmful for the future generations. Nevertheless, stubborn and foolish I was, I decided to make it on my own.

It took me weeks and months to create the plan, gather the materials and to build it. Weirdly, my friends were often coming to my lab to give me some advice or to ask me to abandon my idea. One day, I got angry and told them to leave me along. I wasn't realising I was making a huge mistake.

At last, I finally finished it and was about to test it on my cat: Judy. At that moment my friend arrived and saw me holding the finished machine. She begged me to let my idea down but I didn't listen and pushed the button. I heard a big explosion and saw fire around me before I fainted. Later, I found out my friends all came in emergency and saved the situation.

So let me tell you something:
Friendship is based on two things, respect and trust.

Johnny S.

Bilingual 13

13 years old

The revived friendship

‘Bzzz!’ I looked at my phone. It was a text from someone I hadn’t spoken to in a long time. It was my childhood friend, Gabriel. We were best friends in primary until we had to separate because I had to leave the country for a few years. I kept texting him back then but, for some reason, he stopped replying to me, so I eventually gave up and went on with my life. And here we are ten years later, a message out of nowhere. I stood frozen, almost dropping my phone. Fingers shaking, I slowly unlocked the phone, dozens of thoughts flooding my mind. My eyes widened as I read the message: “I am invited to a competition, the racing game we used to play together, and I need a partner so I thought you would be perfect.” I accepted enthusiastically as if we saw each other yesterday. That night, I couldn’t sleep, childhood memories kept sticking my mind. My head was like a bomb ready to explode. On competition day, I went into

a full room of computers with the game name in flashy letters. It smelled the same smell of my childhood. It felt comfortable as if I found my way back there. A familiar voice called out my name, it was Gabriel waving to me, I immediately recognised him, same eyes, same bright smile. I sat next to him, facing the computer and before I could say anything, the screen announced the start of the race. Cars appeared on the screen, there were at least twenty cars racing us. Fingers sweating, we approached the end of the race, Gabriel and I in the lead. We were on the last lap when a black car got past us. Gabriel shouted “We can’t lose now!” As we were about to hit the finish line, Gabriel unexpectedly came right behind my car and pushed it with all his might. My car flew, getting past that car and straight to the finish line. Gabriel and I erupted in joy as we left the building with over 5000 dollars each. We then went to a nearby restaurant and spoke for hours on end.

Thank you!

We would like to thank the following people who made this competition a great success:

British Council teachers for encouraging students to participate in the competition and helping them to develop the language to do so!

The YL Extra team for coordinating the project.

British Council parents who encouraged their students to take part.

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