Over the Line 2016
Writing activity 8

Tomorrow is an important day in Europe. And not because of the football. Tomorrow the people of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England vote to decide whether they leave the European Union (EU). But not all the people. Adults are voting. Not children.

Children don’t vote in the UK until they are 16 or 18, depending on what is being voted for. But this vote is going to affect children more than anyone else. Today’s children are going to see more of the future than today’s adults.

There are good and bad arguments for us to stay and for us to leave. A lot of it is guesswork. We don’t really know what the future holds inside or outside the EU.

We’d like you to write a story about leaving or remaining.

Think of a character. Make them part of something. A club. A team. A dance school. Anything. You could choose something you are part of. Or not.

Now give them a difficulty that makes them wonder whether they should leave. For instance, a footballer or dancer who likes the team/school they are at now, but they’ve been offered a chance at a better team or school.

Before you start you could do what I do at the beginning of a story. I ask myself these questions. I write a line or two for each one. Sometimes they help, sometimes they don’t. But they are a way to open up the story and make it easier to write.

Who?
When?
Where?
What?
Why?
How?

Now write a story about someone leaving or remaining. It can include things people say to them. Events that make them decide or their own thoughts and memories.