**Creative Writing Competition: ‘Everyday Heroes’**

**National Literacy Trust and Swindon Stories** are delighted to launch an exciting creative writing competition as part of the Connecting Stories project, with support from the author Rebecca Henry. We are inviting young people aged 11-14 from Swindon to create a piece of writing based on the theme ***‘Everyday Heroes’.***

***Hero:*** *a person who is admired for their courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.* What does this mean to you?

Using a real life example or your imagination, tell us about someone who is a hero to you.

You can choose any format you like – a story, a poem, news article or diary entry. You can include some illustrations too.

Everyone who enters the competition will receive a certificate and will have a chance to get their work published in an anthology and displayed in a local exhibition. There will also be book prizes for the winning entries.

Winning entries will be chosen based on originality, imagination, relation to the theme and overall enjoyment.

**How to enter**

* Use the blank space in this booklet or a side of A4 paper to complete your piece of writing.
* Ask your parent/guardian or teacher to scan or photograph your work and enter online at [www.literacytrust.org.uk/communities/connecting-stories](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/communities/connecting-stories) or email it to swindoncs.secondary@literacytrust.org.uk. Don’t forget to include your first name and first letter of your surname, your age and school.

**Privacy notice**

The National Literacy Trust will need to hold and process your personal data in order to manage this competition. We will only use it for this purpose we will never pass on personal information to any other organisations unless specific consent has been given. For our full privacy policy see literacytrust.org.uk/privacy

**‘Everyday Heroes’: Writing prompts**

Your piece of writing can be funny, heart-warming, adventurous or exciting, fiction or non-fiction, everything is welcome!

* Perhaps you know someone who does amazing things every day. You could write a diary entry that documents ‘A Day in the Life’. What do they do to make Swindon such a wonderful place to live?
* Maybe you’ll imagine an act of heroism that takes place in your neighbourhood or school. What would happen if a hero came to visit?
* You could write about an event of heroism you have witnessed, or been involved in. How did it make you feel?
* Perhaps you have rescued an animal in danger, helped a friend in trouble or know someone who has worked in the front line emergency services whose story deserves to be shared.
* Perhaps your hero or heroine has some magical qualities – we are keen to hear some re-imagined tales of heroism too.

**Writing Tips**

* How would you describe your hero? What do they smell, look or sound like? How do they feel in different situations? What can they see, hear, feel?
* What conflicts occur in your writing? How are the conflicts resolved?
* If you are writing a fictional story – is there a clear beginning, middle and end?
* Who is narrating your piece? How are you going to depict their point of view and voice?

Name Click or tap here to enter text. Age Click or tap here to enter text.

School Click or tap here to enter text.

Parent/Guardian/Teacher email address Click or tap here to enter text.

[ ]  Parent/Guardian: I give permission for this work, along with the name, age and school provided, to be published in an anthology and displayed online or in public venues.

**Competition Rules**

* The competition is open to children and young people aged 11-14, however entries from all secondary school pupils will be considered for the exhibition.
* The closing date for submission is Friday 12th March 2021. Winners will be announced at the beginning of April.
* Entries should be one page of A4 or 500 words maximum and written in English.
* The piece of creative writing must be an original piece of work and be wholly written by the entrant. It must reflect the theme of the competition as stated in the competition challenge. The writing must be single-authored.
* Entries must not contain obscene, defamatory, offensive or otherwise unsuitable material. The organisers reserve the right to disqualify such entries.
* A team of community partners and National Literacy Trust staff will shortlist entries and winners will be chosen by our panel of experts.
* On submission, parents/guardians will be asked to grant permission to enter. They will be asked for consent to publish the entrant’s writing online or in print form, or display physical entries in public spaces.
* Teachers submitting on behalf of their pupils must obtain permission from parents/ guardians prior to submission. As a teacher, by entering your pupils’ work into this competition you are confirming that written parental consent has been sought and confirmed in advance of the submission. National Literacy Trust will not be held liable in the instance that consent has not been sought.

