



NIABF SHORT STORY COMPETITION

“The fear of being bullied in a new school”

School Preparation Pack

September 2008

Anti-Bullying Week 2008 is supported by



Pupil Guidance for Short Story Competition

Facilitated by the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF)

* *What is the theme of the story I am to write about?*

The theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2008 is 'Tackling the fear of being bullied in a new school'. Children arrive in a new school for many reasons: moving from primary to post-primary school or for a range of other family, social or educational factors, and often the fear of being bullied is one doubt and worry they might have about the unfamiliarity of a new school environment. Every child is new to a school at some stage in their life and so all of us can empathise with these fears. Stories could therefore deal, for example, with the actual experience of being bullied, or fears which never led to bullying, or steps children or others took to prevent bullying or the fear of it. Stories should be fictional, and if based on personal experiences should not identify people or places (e.g. pupils, teachers or schools) by their real names.

* *How long should it be?*

Short stories should be written in English or Irish. For Primary pupils total words should not be less than 250 words and no more than 1000 words (roughly the equivalent of $\frac{1}{2}$ an A4 page or no more than 2 A4 sides). For Post-Primary pupils total words should not be less than 750 and no more than 1500 words (roughly the equivalent of $1\frac{1}{2}$ A4 pages or no more than 3 A4 sides). Short stories which substantially exceed the word count will be disqualified. Stories should either be typed or clearly written **in black ink** on one side of paper only.

* *Who can enter the competition?*

Any pupil attending a primary, post-primary, hospital or special school in the north of Ireland can enter. There are two main categories, namely children of Primary school age and children of Post-Primary school age. There will be one winner and two runners up from each category. Each entry must be submitted by one child/young person – no group entries please.

In addition, the judges may decide to award two Special Merit awards to entrants who produce the most interesting short stories, despite, in the view of the judges, facing specific learning challenges.

* *Who am I writing the story for and who will read it?*

The story should end with one or more key message(s) which provide advice or support to help other pupils who may have fears of being bullied when arriving in a new school.

An adult judging panel will read and score the stories. A sample of short stories, including the winning ones, will be published on NIABF's website

(www.niabf.org.uk). A presentation ceremony will also take place in Belfast during Anti-Bullying Week (17th-21st November) where the winners will be encouraged to read their stories to invited guests (both adults and children/young people).

* *How will my story be judged?*

Each story should have a title and the descriptive content should include the following:

1. Be clear about why the pupil (or group of pupils), who face the fear of being bullied, was new to a school. They may have come from primary school, or just moved with their family into a new area. They may have come from a different country. There may be other reasons.
2. Illustrate clearly what the pupil's (or group of pupils') fears of being bullied were, when they arrived at the new school
3. Show what happened, good or bad, - and what support was given to them to make them feel happy at their new school, or what support *should* have been given them

The story must end with one or more key message(s) for other children/young people, providing advice to counteract pupils' fears of being bullied when arriving in a new school.

* *How many prizes are there?*

There will be two winners and four runners up. Winners will receive a £100 book token and an award. Each runner-up will receive a £25 book token. Schools of winners and runners up will receive a framed certificate. All pupils submitting an entry will receive a certificate acknowledging their contribution to the competition.

In addition, the judges may decide to award two Special Merit awards to entrants who produce the most interesting short stories, despite, in the view of the judges, facing specific learning challenges.

Staff Guidance for Short Story Competition

Facilitated by the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF)

NIABF Short Story Competition Award

- * Open to any student attending a primary, post-primary, hospital or special school
- * Prizes: There will be one winner and two runner-ups from each of the following two categories:

1. Children of Primary school age
2. Children/young people of Post-Primary school age

In addition, the judges may decide to award two Special Merit awards to entrants who produce the most interesting short stories, despite, in the view of the judges, facing specific learning challenges.

- Each category winner will receive an engraved award and £100 book token. Their school will receive a framed certificate.
 - Each runner up will receive a £25 book token. Their school will receive a framed certificate.
 - Each Special Merit winner will receive a £25 book token. Their school will receive a framed certificate.
 - All entrants will receive a certificate from NIABF acknowledging their participation in the competition.
- * A Presentation Ceremony will take place during Anti-Bullying Week in Belfast,
 - * A sample of short stories, including the winning ones, will be published on the NIABF website (www.niabf.org.uk)

Conditions of Entry

- * Stories should be written on the theme of the '**fear of being bullied in a new school**'.
- * Short stories should be written in English or Irish
- * For Primary pupils total words should not be less than 250 words and no more than 1000 words (roughly the equivalent of ½ an A4 page or no more than 2 A4 sides). For Post-Primary pupils total words should not be less than 750 and no more than 1500 words (roughly the equivalent of 1½ A4 pages or no more than 3 A4 sides).
- * Stories should be fictional, and if based on personal experiences should not identify people or places (e.g. pupils, teachers or schools) by their real names
- * Each story should have a key message or 'moral' which can be expressed in one sentence – this should be written on the entry form
- * Stories must be securely attached to an entry form. Entries should be posted to NIABF, c/o Save the Children, 15 Richmond Park, Belfast, BT10 0HB and received by Friday 17th October 2008
- * Each short story must be typed or clearly written **in black ink** on one side of the paper only
- * The name of the entrant must **not** appear on the short story
- * Short stories must not have been published prior to entering the competition & should not appear in print or be broadcast in any form before the announcement of competition results
- * No entries can be returned

Judges

David Simpson, Chair of NIABF
Jim Clarke, CCMS Deputy Chief Executive
Michael Wardlow, NICIE Chief Executive
Philomena McDermott, WELB

The Judging Process & Criteria

- * The final selection will be made by at least two of the judges
- * The judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into regarding their decision
- * Key criteria will include the overall originality and interest of the writing, and the relevance of the key message or 'moral'. The age of the story writer may be taken in account where appropriate
- * Each story should have a title and the descriptive content must include the following: the rationale of why they were a new pupil, their fears being bullied when arriving at the new school, what their real experiences were and what support was given to them to make them feel happy at their new school. The story must end with one or more key message(s) to their peers providing advice to counteract pupils' fears of being bullied when arriving in a new school.
- * Prize-winners will be notified in advance and the Presentation Ceremony will take place in Belfast, during Anti-Bullying Week
- * All prize-winners, alongside a representative from their school, will be expected to attend the Presentation Ceremony

Copyright

Copyright will remain with the competitor, however NIABF reserves the right to arrange the first publication or broadcast of selected short stories.

Submission of a short story implies the competitor's acceptance of the conditions set out above.

To enter, a completed entry form attached to the pupil's short story must be sent to:

NIABF Short Story Competition
c/o Save the Children
15 Richmond Park
Belfast
BT10 0HB

Closing date for receipt of entries is **Friday 17th October 2008**. **Late entries cannot be accepted.**

Entry Code:

To be completed by organisers



Northern Ireland
Anti-Bullying Forum

Acting Together To End Bullying

**Anti-Bullying Week 2008
Short Story Competition**

Entry Form

Pupil's Details

Name: _____

Age: _____ Key Stage: _____

Class: _____

I enclose the following story entitled:

The key message or 'moral' of my story is:

Total no. of words: _____

School Details

Name: _____
& Address _____

Teacher: _____

School Telephone no: _____

School Email: _____

**Attach a copy of your story to this entry form and post to:
NIABF Short Story Competition. c/o Save the Children, 15 Richmond Park, Belfast,
BT10 0HB:**

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