

# *THE WRITE FEELING*

*Exploring emotions through  
creative writing*

*By the fourth classes at St. Corban's Boys' National School,  
Naas, County Kildare*

*February-March 2022*



By Isaac Chieng, fourth class

## Introduction

Two years ago, no imagination could have predicted the challenges presented by a particle too small to see under a light microscope, let alone with the naked eye. But many lockdowns later, it's imagination that's helping to beat the Covid virus, through vaccine development and other practical measures we've designed to protect and care for each other.

Working with the two fourth classes at St. Corban's B.N.S. I have seen the power of imagination at play. In workshops over six weeks the boys have built characters around particular emotions (Fellow Feelings) and celebrated the gift of gratitude (Thanks a Bunch). They've explored friendship (Friends for Life) and described what makes them feel safe (Where I Belong). As superheroes, they've saved the day (Supersave!). And just for good measure, they've designed their dream countries too.

You can read some of their wonderful writing here. While it would be lovely to include all the work, space and time allowed only one written piece from each pupil. Within each section of this book, the work is presented alphabetically across the two classes. Editing has been minimal.

It's been a great delight and the best fun to work with the boys, all of whom have participated with energy, enthusiasm and fantastic creativity. They should all be very proud of their writing and illustrations.

A huge thank you to the teachers Shane Ryan and Laura McGarr who have both been wonderfully enthusiastic and supportive of this project. Many thanks too to the Department of Education's Arts-in-Education BLAST Residency Programme, which has funded the project, and to Kildare Education Centre for managing the process, especially Administrator Marian Leahy and Director Siobhán Kavanagh.

To all contributors: thanks a bunch!

Debbie Thomas (children's author and creative writing facilitator), March 2022

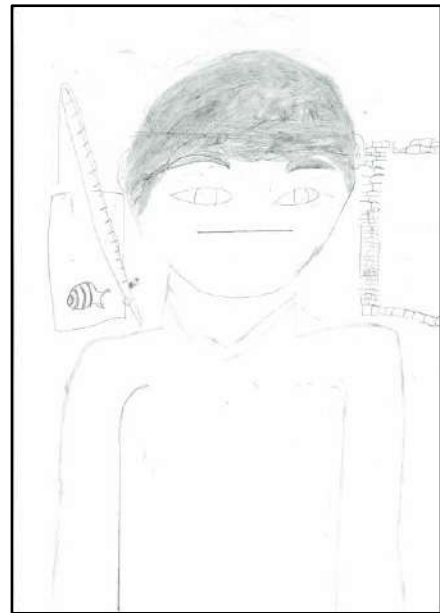
## FELLOW FEELINGS

We all know what it feels like to be happy or sad. We've all been excited and annoyed, calm and nervous. Our feelings are what draw us together; they're part of being human.

But what if feelings really WERE human? What kind of people would they be?

### Mohab Amer: Relaxation

Relaxation is a 34-year-old man. His hair is as black as the night sky. He is five foot two, brown with dull clothes. He lives in a hot house. His name is Bhave and he is a fisherman. He has black, lazy eyes and bushy eyebrows.

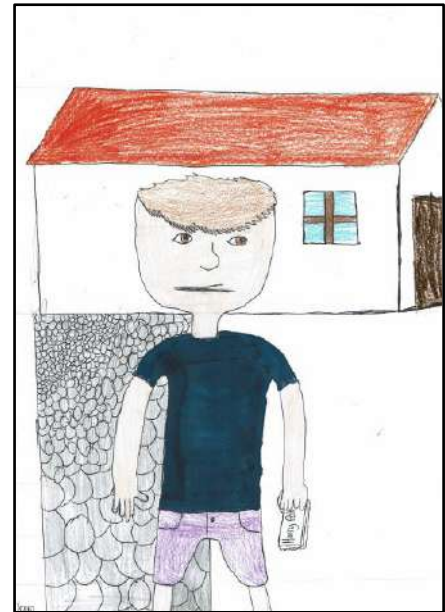


### Cian Bonner: Relaxation

Barry is a small, old man who wears big round glasses. He's five foot 1 and a hundred years old. That doesn't stop him from having a job at the couch factory where he tests all the couches. Barry has long white curly hair and the longest fluffy beard you will ever see. If you've ever seen a hippy, that's pretty much Barry. He lives in a caravan in Donegal, right out in the countryside.

### Joan Caldés Albiol: Loneliness

Johnny Landry was a 13-year-old boy, the smallest in his class. His thick brown hair hung over his dark blue eyes. He lived in his parents' house but they had disappeared 6 months before and now he lived alone. He wore dark, raggedy clothes and his feet had nearly outgrown his blue shoes. He wore long, torn trousers and an old T-shirt. His house was small and dim. It had two windows and a stony back garden. Its walls were greyish and the tiles on the roof were as red as blood. Every day he only ate a small, burnt pizza and was always reading in his room. His dusty house had two bedrooms, one toilet and a kitchen.



### Fionn Doyle: Mr Lazy

Jonathan Mell is 28. He wears blue jeans that barely fit him and a T-shirt with his belly showing. He has blue eyes that you can't see because he never had a haircut for his scruffy hair. The only distance he moves is from the couch to the fridge. He wears sandals and rents a house that his dad pays for in London. All of the rooms except for the kitchen and bedroom have bare walls because he doesn't paint them. Jonathan never opens he windows or the curtains. His favourite food is ice cream, doughnuts, Doritos, chocolate and pizza. Jonathan loves his stuffed animals; he sleeps with them and plays with them. He works as an employee in his dad's factory.

### Tyler Doyle: Happiness

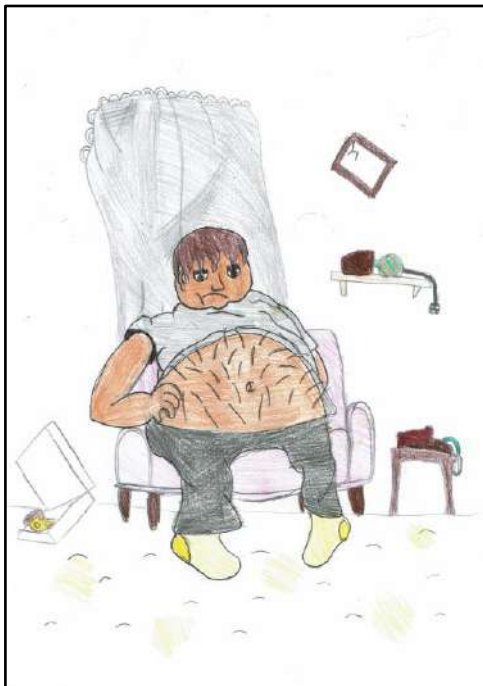
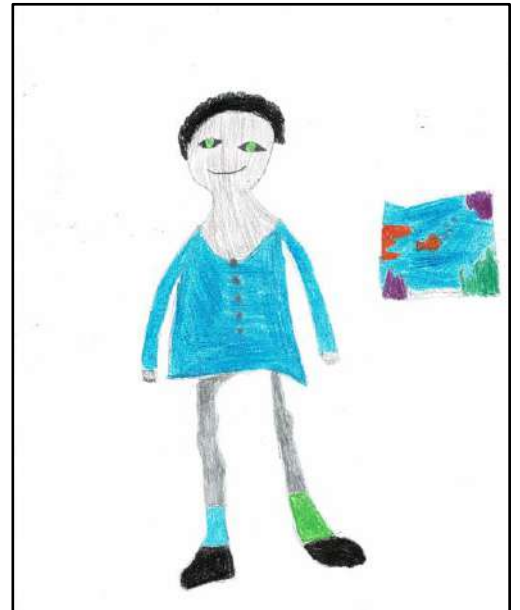
Joy Delight was 21. She wore bright, fancy, colourful clothes every day. Her favourite was a sparkling yellow dress with big green and pink buttons which matched her long, straight, pink hair. Her yellow, pink and green socks matched her yellow and blue high heels. Joy lived in a glowing cottage with her lovely flower garden. The birds chirped and the bees hummed beautifully. There was a little lake beside her cottage where the prettiest glowing, sparkly fish swam.

Joy ate what made her happy. Every day she had pancakes with chocolate sauce and whipped cream with a good cup of tea for her breakfast. She owned a tiny, well-behaved golden retriever who slept in his bed in her room. Sometimes Joy let him sleep in the bed with her.



### **Eoin Hennessy: Freedom**

Ben Scannel is nine. He's four foot five with black curly hair. He has green eyes and wears bright grey trousers, a dark blue shirt that's too big for him, and odd socks – green and blue. He wears small, colourful, ripped runners. He always wears the same backwards red and black cap. He is very thin like his parents. He lives in a small caravan beside the sea on the coast at Waterford. The window looks out over the beautiful dark sea and he can hear and feel the sea breeze. The waves crash and splash nearly up to the caravan. There are two beds inside. He eats carrots and loves ice cream. His parents work in a fish shop and usually eat fish and steak. But Ben does not like to eat fish as he loves aquatic animals. He has a one-year-old goldfish. He loves the fish but his parents want to get rid of it as they say it costs too much to feed.



### **Bobby Kennedy: Lazy**

Glen Fiddleberry always wears the same old baggy shirt that his large belly pokes out of. His long, greasy, tangled hair is hazelnut brown. His dull, light grey bottoms are so small on him they are nearly shorts. All he does is sleep on the couch until his favourite show is on. He has worn the same socks for an unknown length of time but one thing is definitely known: they stink. He lives in a filthy house and often hibernates in the living room. His grass is so long it's one step from a wild forest. There are rotten eggs all over his wall that he hasn't washed off since Halloween, and toenail clippings all over the floor.

He eats five meals a day and several unhealthy snacks in between. Some of his favourite foods are pizza chips from the chipper, Chinese takeaways, sweets, ice cream and chocolate. He has

owned several goldfish that have passed away because he didn't feed them. He has a sock that's nearly alive because it STINKS.



### **Peter Kurucz: Anger**

His hair is black, his clothes are black and all you can see are two red eyes. He has powerful dark magic that makes everyone angry. He goes to weak victims and cures them with anger. He lives in a cave with lava flowing across the walls. He eats rotten old flesh that he thinks is brand new.

### **Christopher Leane: Happiness**

When Hart Bundwill walks down the street, light glows from him and his long dark hair falls over his multicoloured glasses. His white shirt is tucked into his dark jeans. His yellow socks come far up his long legs. He lives in the estate of Sunwall Hill. His red-brick house gives off vibes of happiness. It has the best sea view in Sunwall. It's a five-minute walk to the beach and ten minutes to the nearest shop. Light shines through his wide windows. Hart is vegetarian and finds vegetables much more nutritious than meat. His white teeth gleam when he smiles. Hart has just been hired at the local market. He hasn't finished school yet. His favourite food is sticky toffee pudding.



### **Samuel O'Malley: Organised**

One lovely day there was a boy named John walking home on the path. John was a very organised guy. Not a single thing he owned was out of place. John was 12 and had curly brown hair that shone in the sunlight. He was five foot 2, one of the tallest boys in his school. John lived in a small apartment in Dublin with his mum and dad. It had three rooms and the walls were painted bright yellow. John had a guitar which he would play all day long, Many people thought it was just a hobby but John took it more seriously, like a job. He wore a bright blue woollen jumper that always kept him warm. He wore navy jeans and all his clothes fitted perfectly.

### Connor Ryan: Laziness

Sean is very lazy. He spends half his day sitting watching TV, quarter of his day eating. The other quarter is free except for the weekends, which is when he buys food and other stuff. He lives in an expensive apartment in New York. He doesn't have a job. He has light blue eyes and messy brown hair. He wears a red shirt that says 'CHILL'. He is very rich and has a baby dachshund who is twelve months old. There are 4 people in his family and they are the closest to the pool in Apartment 1.

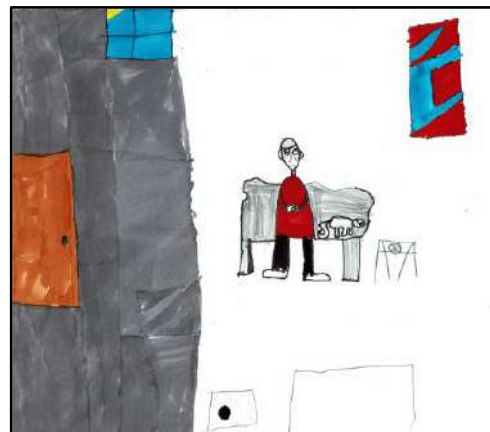


### Ahmed Syed: Safety

Once upon a time there was a boy named Henry. He was an ordinary kid who liked books and doing chores. He wore a red T-shirt, blue shoes and fancy pants that were red and blue. His face mask had fire one side and water on the other and his blue coat had lots of pockets. (If you haven't noticed, his favourite colour were red and blue.)

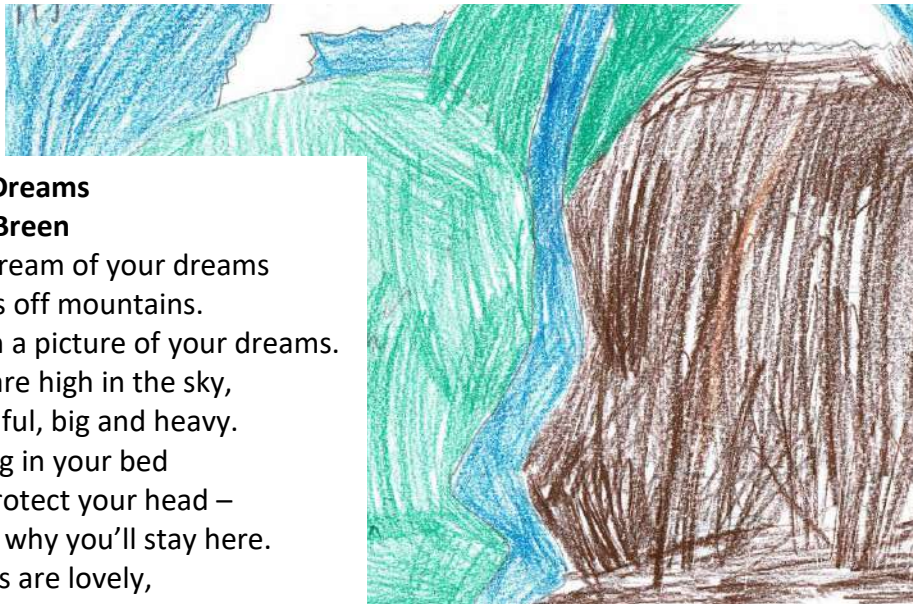
### Alec Walsh: Relaxation

Steven is 18 and 6 foot 3. He always wears pyjamas, black and red. Steven sits on the couch and plays video games. His mum is a banker and hi dad I a doctor. His favourite food I pizza and his favourite drink is Fanta. His hair I blond and hi eyes are blue. He HATES college. He loves to play with his dog Charlie.



## THANKS A BUNCH

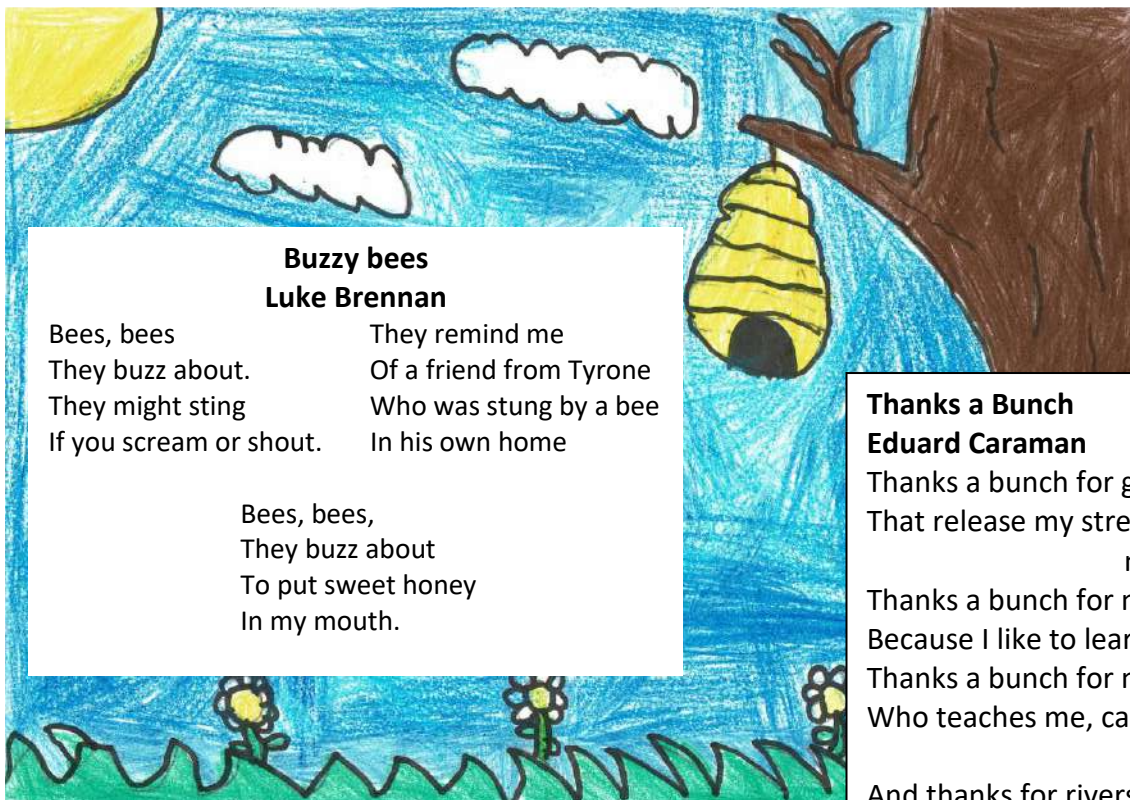
Gratitude is one of the greatest gifts in life. When we're counting our blessings, there's no time to complain. And the fourth classes have done a lot of counting ...



### Your Dreams

**Euan Breen**

The stream of your dreams  
Comes off mountains.  
Sketch a picture of your dreams.  
They are high in the sky,  
Beautiful, big and heavy.  
Resting in your bed  
Can protect your head –  
That's why you'll stay here.  
Jerseys are lovely,  
Stretchy and comfy.  
They inspire you  
To be you.



### Buzzy bees Luke Brennan

Bees, bees	They remind me
They buzz about.	Of a friend from Tyrone
They might sting	Who was stung by a bee
If you scream or shout.	In his own home

Bees, bees,  
They buzz about  
To put sweet honey  
In my mouth.

### Thanks a Bunch Eduard Caraman

Thanks a bunch for games  
That release my stress and make  
me have fun.  
Thanks a bunch for maths  
Because I like to learn.  
Thanks a bunch for my dad  
Who teaches me, cares for me,  
loves me.  
And thanks for rivers  
That give us water  
To drink, to wash, to clean.



**Trees**

**Séan Carey**

Thank you for trees  
On the planet  
That give me oxygen  
To survive.  
Because of trees  
I am alive.  
Thank you for movies  
And Brian my friend,  
He's funny and fun.



By Finn Ryan

**So Many Thank Yous**

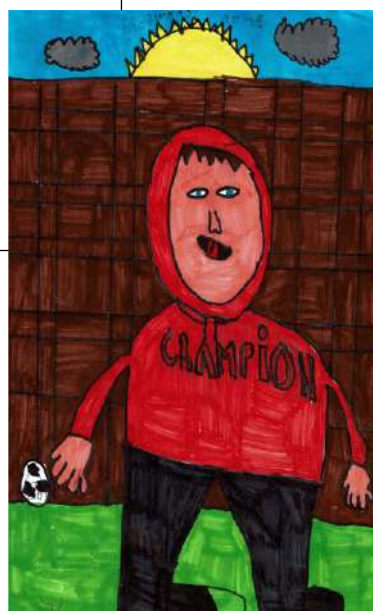
**Brian Crawford**

I'm grateful for food  
On my table to eat  
When some cannot.  
I'm glad I have school  
So that I can learn.  
My favourite class  
Is computer room  
Where I can type  
And make excellent projects.  
I love Lily, my cockapoo,  
Cute and small,  
She makes me warm.  
My friend Séan  
Is smart and cool.  
He loves his books  
And reads a lot.  
I'm glad for the sun  
That gives light and life.

**Teddy**

**Hugh Cullen**

I'm grateful for my white teddy  
That you can see in the dark  
With its knitted blanket  
That plays music when you're  
down.  
You feel very grateful  
When you've had him for years.  
You thank him for playing,  
Then he says goodbye.



## Life

**William Devitt**

I'm grateful for my family,  
My mum who takes care of me,  
My dad who takes me places,  
My granddad too.  
I feel great round my friends  
I love trees that give oxygen,  
English, PE  
And Soccer  
Because it is fun.



## Family Fun

**Liam Gavigan**

Thanks a bunch  
I should say,  
Even after  
Yesterday.  
My sister threw  
My favourite soup  
Right into  
The garbage chute.  
Thanks a bunch  
To my big bro  
Who just seems  
To grow and grow.  
Thanks a bunch  
To my dear mum  
Who is always  
So much fun.  
Thanks a bunch  
To my fun dad  
Who never seems  
To get mad.  
Thanks a bunch  
To my big sis  
Who likes to knit  
And knit  
And knit!

## Drift

**James Lynch**

When I sit  
At the dinner table I feel  
Warm on the  
Inside. As I sit  
Conversation fills the room  
And loudly thoughts

## Drift

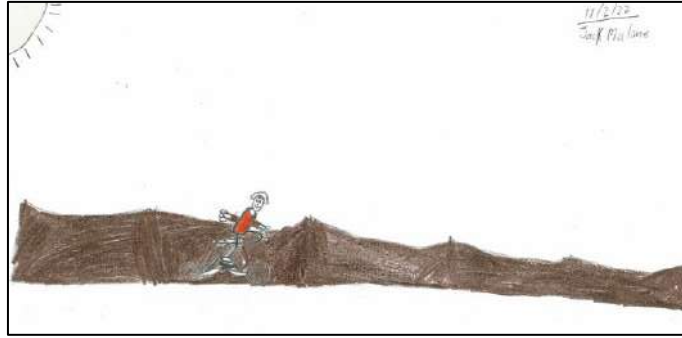
Into my mind.



### My Day

Jack Malone

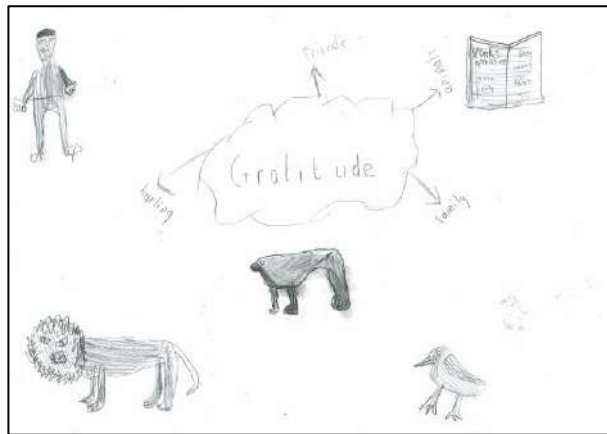
I just ate food  
Made by my dad  
Then went to school  
To learn maths.  
I cycled home  
The sun shone down  
Did my homework  
And gobbled food again.



### What I Need

Lochlann O'Rourke

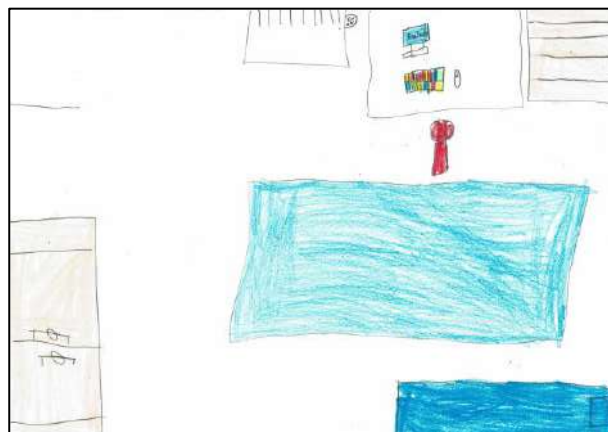
I'm grateful for reading,  
PE too  
Also hurling.  
Aren't you?  
My dog is beautiful  
And lions and birds  
Thanks for my friend  
Who puts me first.  
My parents are kind  
My siblings are happy  
But all the while  
I am grumpy.  
If everyone else  
Is in a good mood  
All I need  
Is some gratitude!



### Not Alone

Oli Rzeszutko

I'm grateful for video games  
That make me feel not alone,  
I'm grateful for PE that's fun  
And parents who give me  
What I need.  
To my teacher who teaches,  
To my watch that tells me the  
time.  
And thank you for trees  
That give wood and paper,  
Fruits and shelter.



## FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Where would we be without friends? They listen, they laugh, they help us and heal our hearts. Let's hear it for friends!

### Brian Burns

You're as sweet as a bun.  
You're very fun.  
You're kind and loyal,  
Treat me like I'm royal.  
You mend our friendship  
And are good at craftsmanship.



### Isaac Chieng

When my friends are here  
They take away my fear.  
When I fall and shed tears  
They give me a cheer.

They're all very funny,  
And it makes me sweet as honey  
Because they are so sunny.

### Diarmuid Crotty

My friend is loyal  
He sat on oil.  
My friend is kind –  
I control his mind!  
My friend is close.  
I like him the most.  
My friend will share.  
We are a pair.



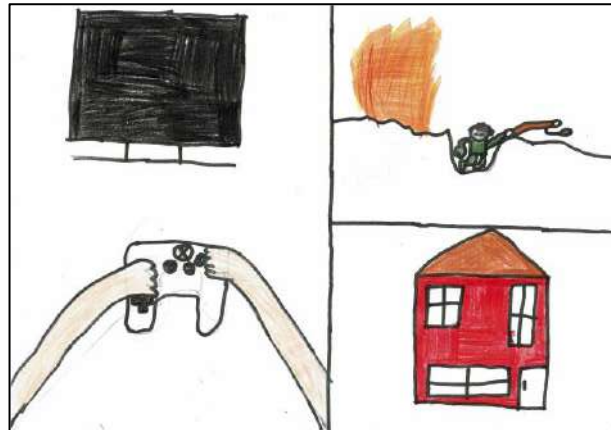
**Freddie Donohue**

My friends are lots of craic  
They always have my back.  
If I'm hit, we'll attack  
And I never lack.

My friends are very kind.  
We all have great minds  
And are always on the grind.

My friends are very loyal.  
They came from the soil.  
And they are royal.

My friends are loads of fun  
And they weigh a ton.  
Now this poem is done.

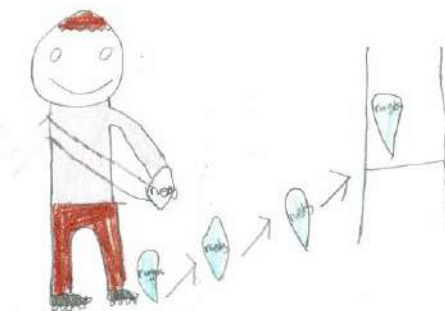


**Nikodem Dziabor**

My friend his funny.  
He jumps like a bunny.  
He gives me money.  
He works in a team  
And is not mean.  
My friend is kind.  
He does not mind.

**Adam Nolan**

My friend is only funny  
When he hurts his tummy.  
He has a runny tummy.  
Only when he's funny.  
My friend is lots of craic  
He lies out on his back.  
When he's on a sack  
He hurts his poor back.



**Niall O'Connell**

My friend is very nice  
He gave me a pizza slice.  
He respects me  
And corrects me,  
Helps me  
And yelps at me.  
He's so funny,  
Makes me feel like a bunny.



**Noah O'Riordan**  
My friend is kind  
With an open mind.  
He loves to share  
And gives me the spare.  
We respect Ukraine  
And that won't end

**Andrej Tomasevic**

My friend is cool,  
He has a pool,  
He's not a fool.  
He's very kind  
And also blind.  
I give him trust  
And so he must  
Not leave me in the dust.





### **Shea White**

When something breaks I help him mend it  
When something's needed, then I'll lend it  
I'll write a letter and I'll send it.  
He's my friend, he's very kind.  
And he really doesn't mind.  
He's my friend, he's very honest  
And he's also very modest.

## WHERE I BELONG

Maybe it's a place, a person or a pursuit ... where do you feel safe and happy?

### Goal!

#### Harry Brereton

I love to play on the green  
Especially with my friends.  
Cars pass by  
Birds sing in the sun.  
I'm happy and calm  
Then getting excited  
And yes!  
The ball hits the back of the net.



### In the Ring

#### Michael Cleere

In the boxing ring  
It's lots of fun  
I punch things  
And train to be strong  
My arms might hurt  
But it's great fun  
To practise stances  
With my friend Fionn.

### Football Dreams

#### Aniq Delvin

Sleeping in my bed  
I dream of playing football  
My cousin scores a goal.  
I can smell chicken cooking.  
I'm alone,  
Happy and relaxed.

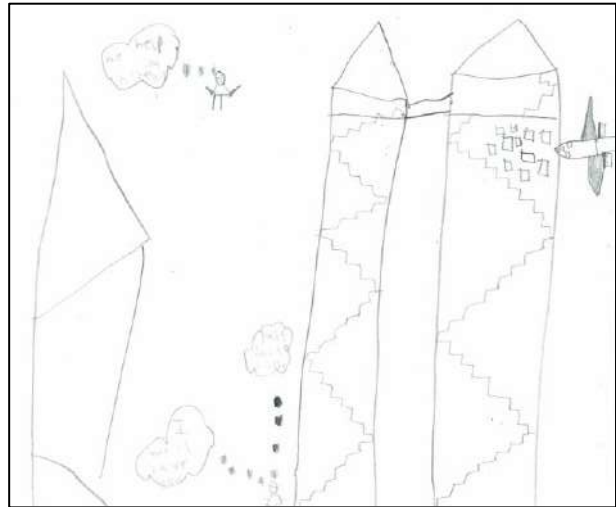




**Safe**

**Simon Elliffe**

I'm in my bedroom  
Playing with my brother and sister.  
There's a smell of pizza  
Cooking downstairs.  
I feel sleepy and safe  
With my family.

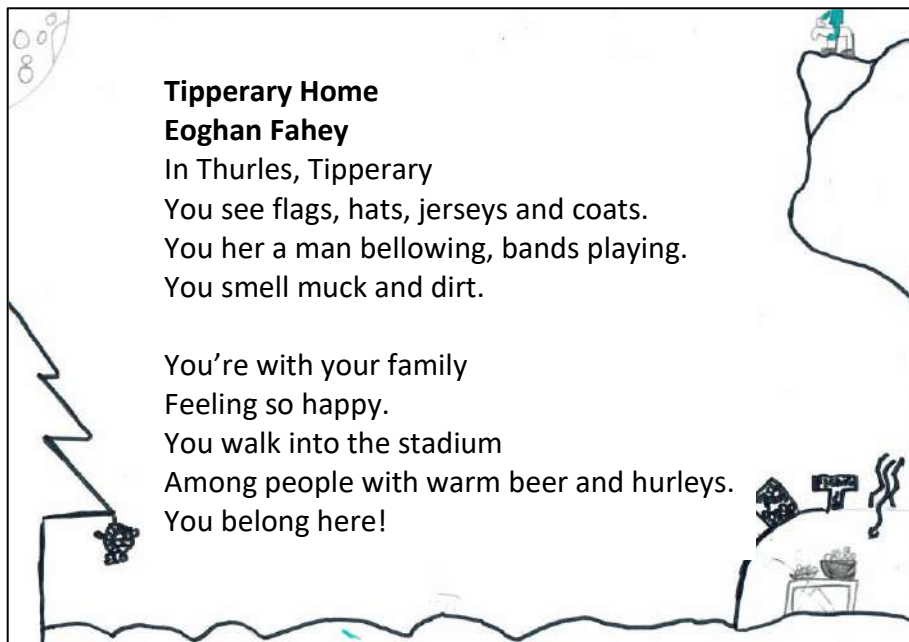


**Tipperary Home**

**Eoghan Fahey**

In Thurles, Tipperary  
You see flags, hats, jerseys and coats.  
You hear a man bellowing, bands playing.  
You smell muck and dirt.

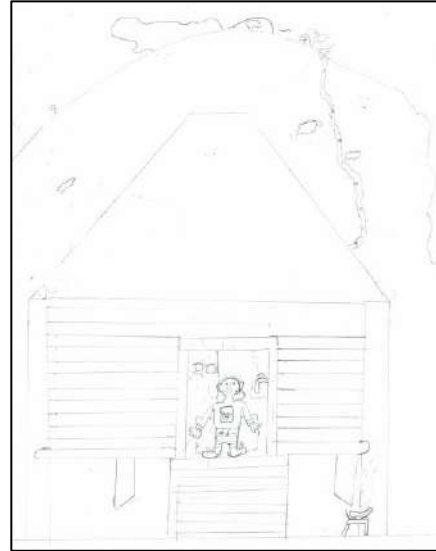
You're with your family  
Feeling so happy.  
You walk into the stadium  
Among people with warm beer and hurleys.  
You belong here!



### Happy at Home

Henry Fitzgerald

I'm in the sitting room.  
Outside I hear people shouting.  
Inside my sister is watching TV.  
I'm clicking the mouse.  
I smell dinner cooking – chicken,  
potatoes and gravy.  
I'm happy.



### Football and Friends

Dylan Hynes

On the green I'm at peace  
Playing soccer with  
my friends.  
There are green  
leaves  
On massive trees,  
Two goals  
With three poles,  
And grass  
Where I pass.  
My legs are shaking  
The world is quaking.  
I feel energetic  
The ball is magnetic.

### Score!

Kalpo Sambhi Kashem

I kick the ball  
And then I fall  
People stand  
Around the wall.  
I feel excited  
And delighted  
I get up, stand tall  
Then shot! I score  
And win.



### **Safe in the Sunroom**

**Alex Kearney**

I feel safe in my sunroom.

With the lights, the plants, on the  
couch.

My family is talking,

The dog is here.

I'm excited.

My legs and arms want to move

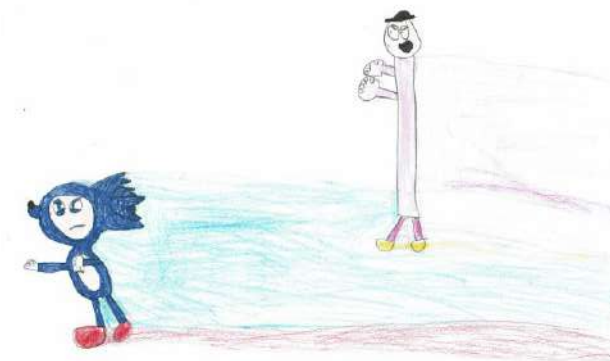
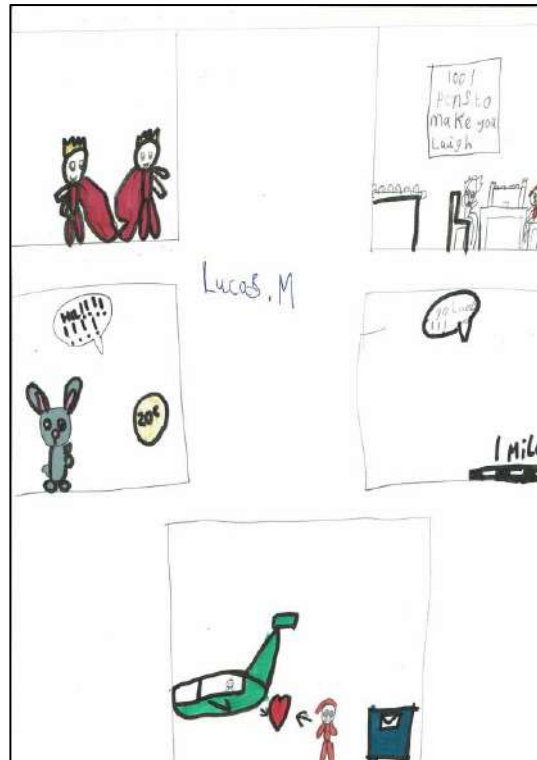
But I want to stay here for ever.



### Drawing Peace

**Lucas McGibney**

Whenever I feel bored  
I always like to draw,  
On my desk  
In my bedroom  
It makes me happy, calm, relaxed  
I love the smell  
Of the paper markers  
It fills your nose.  
I hear my sister  
The TV and Hoover  
And I like to be alone.  
My mind feels good.  
If something is wrong  
I can draw it out.



### Calm

**Liam McLaughlin**

I'm in my living room  
Drawing the Black Hole of Doom.  
The birds are singing  
A bell is ting-a-linging.  
I smell flowers in a pot  
And the air that we've all got.  
I feel safe and calm.  
No one can do me harm.

### A Game with Grandad

**Coby McLoughlin Murphy**

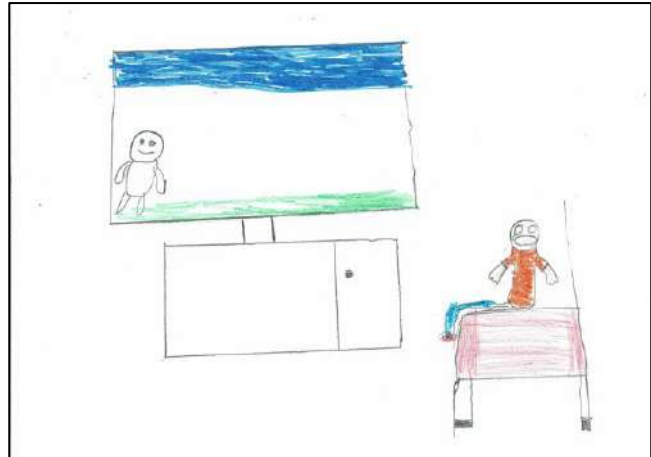
I'm playing hurling  
with my granddad  
in the Dip,  
where the field slopes down  
then up.  
I'm relaxed in my legs.  
I smell grass and dog poo.  
My hurley goes 'whchhhhh.'



### Sounds of Safety

**Alfie Moore Aylesbury**

I'm playing with my dog.  
I can hear the TV and my mam talking,  
The dog barking,  
My mam cooking.  
I'm happy in my stomach.  
I could do this  
For ever.



### FIFA Family

**Lonán O'Sullivan**

Playing my X-box FIFA 21  
Alone or with my sister.  
I feel great ...  
Or annoyed.  
Safe inside the walls, the floor, the roof.  
I hear my mum and dad, my siblings.  
I am hyped.



### My Safe Place

**Alex Pelanne**

I'm asleep in my bed  
Dreaming  
Of leaning  
Over the biggest pizza  
In the world.  
As darkness tucks me up  
I dream



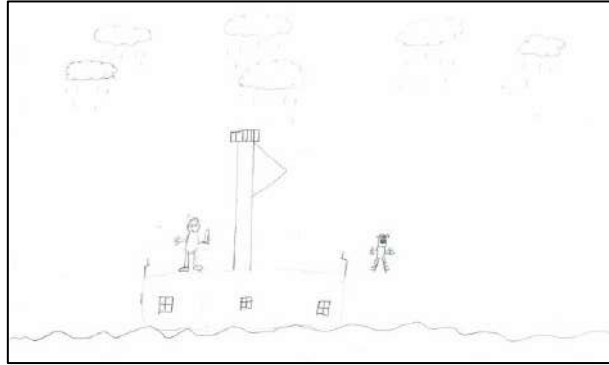
### Fun with Mum

**Séan Rafferty**

I'm in my bedroom  
Drawing Alien and Neomorph.  
A dog barks  
My monitor hums.  
My mum brings cookies,  
Tries to dunk on my mini-basketball hoop.  
It does not go that well.  
We laugh.

## SUPERSAVE!

When the going gets tough, the superheroes of 4<sup>th</sup> class get going. It seems that saving the world is all in a day's work ...



### Fantastic Finn Finn Ryan

A hero was protecting King Ryan with superstrength. His name was Finn and the king was his dad. Sadly the king had a curse on his head from a monster that lived deep down in the sea and was very hard to kill. Finn was very angry. He set out on a journey to kill the monster. He could hold his breath for a long time.

In the middle of the ocean there was a big storm. Finn knew that the monster would come out in a storm so bravely he grabbed a sword and jumped into the water. He saw something swim past him so he followed the monster, which could breathe on land and water. Finn followed the monster into a cave. Then it disappeared. By now Finn was losing his breath but still he went into the cave. He came across land so he could get his breath back, but then another monster closed the entrance so Finn was trapped. Then the monsters attacked. Finn fought back and eventually killed them all. He returned home and everyone thanked him because the king's curse had been broken.



### The Black Hole Emanuel Gama

I went back in time to the 1980s. A villain was jealous of my power and tried to take it for himself. So I used my superpower - creating black holes - to suck all bad things from the planet. But I couldn't control it and my eyes went black, destroying the whole galaxy - planets and plants and countries.

I changed my eyes back to normal. Then I went back in time again. This time my eyes worked properly. I reversed all I had done and brought everything out of the black hole except the villain and bad things. The galaxy, country and plants came back and I was a hero.



### War Hero Lucas Li

2022. One day in June, a ten-year-old boy called James was thinking about World War Two and the man who started it, Hitler. James said to himself, 'What if I could stop that war?' He used his superpower of time travel to go back, and landed in the middle of a battlefield in Poland. Bullets flew past. James heard bombs exploding and soldiers yelling in pain.

He looked for weapons, not for fighting but to protect himself. He found a handgun and thought, 'I guess that will do.' He ran back hoping to find cover but the battle got worse. He remembered from his history book that there would be an air strike. He looked at his watch. 'Ten minutes!' he shouted.

He teleported to Hitler. Our hero wanted peace but Hitler shot at him. Luckily he missed. Hitler knew he was done for and begged for mercy. James demanded that Hitler would stop the war and then teleported back to 2022.

### Cian and the Demon Cian O'Neill

In a place called Naas lived a boy called Cian O'Neill. One day the doorbell rang. A tall person stood on the doorstep. 'You're a wizard,' he said.

'I am?' said Cian. He was very excited.

'I was joking,' said the person. 'Come with me.'

'Am I going to Hogwarts?' said Cian.

'No!' said the person angrily. He pushed Cian down a hill. At the bottom was a ramp.

Cian rolled off the ramp and got shot. He fell on to a bouncy castle obstacle course on water. He woke up in a bed with a hundred people around him.

One of the leaders of the group said, 'You're the son of Poseidon.'

'Am I in Hogwarts?' asked Cian.

'No,' said the leader. 'I am going to give you a quest. The first task is very dangerous – to sweep the floor. The second one is to kill a demon.'

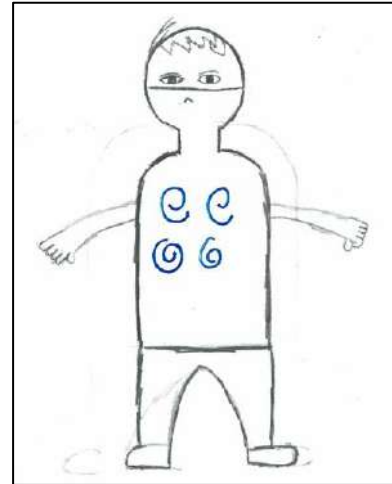
Cian swept the floor then went off to get a sword and a shield. Cian was with a goat man and Hagrid. They went to a garden and Hagrid was turned to stone.

The goat man saw a woman with glasses and a black bandage around her head. 'Medusa!' he screamed. 'Use your shield when you look at her, Cian!'

Cian came up behind Medusa and sliced her head off. The goat man was turned to stone because he looked Medusa in the eyes. Cian found a blue ball. When he dropped it, a demon stood in front of him. Cian ran off around the garden ... straight back to the demon.

The demon shot lava and fire at him. Cian found a fountain and dipped his head into the water. The demon cut off a patch of his skin but the water healed Cian.

The demon tried to shoot more fire but Cian stuck out his hands and threw water. 'Bye bye!' shouted Cian, and that was the end of the demon.



### **Pathfinder Saves Ukraine**

#### **Séan Prout**

The Russians were invading Ukraine. They bombed a children's hospital. Someone named Pathfinder was a robot with a built-in grapple and a sentinel sniper. He stood for what was right. Octane, Ash and Revanet were with Russia. Octane's power was to throw bombs. Revanet could jump and parkour up trees in the snap of a finger. Ash had a sword she could throw that would come back to her.

Pathfinder met up with Ukraine's president and marched troops out. He went alone while troops marched from the capital of Ukraine. After seven days of walking he finally reached the border of Ukraine and Russian. He took down 70 troops. He finally met Putin and got him between the eyes. He sniped Ash, grappled Octane and stalled Revanet.



**Strong Boy**  
**By Henry Walsh**

There was once a hero whose power was strength. He put all the animals back in the pen and moved heavy things. He was awarded a medal for his work but, as he went to receive it, a villain attacked him. IN the chaos of the fight, the villain and he were nearly killed . In the end the hero was stronger and the villain fled to his cave. The hero chased him there and they battled again. The cave was destroyed as they fought each other. The hero was injured but he used the last of his strength in a powerful attack, winning the battle and killing the villain. As the hero lay badly wounded, his friends came and saved him.





Cian O'Neill, fourth class