

Tell us a story!

Storytellers of all ages – we need you!

Could you write a short story to bring a smile to the faces of the people in Eastleigh most affected by isolation?

Here in the Creative Learning Department at The Point and The Berry Theatres, we are asking you to write a short story that we will deliver to vulnerable and elderly people in our town, keeping Eastleigh connected and sharing messages of hope, humour and happiness by bringing a smile to those who may be feeling most alone.

Whether you're an experienced writer or this is totally new to you, we want to hear from you!

Rules

- Make it positive ! What story would really brighten someone's day?
- Please keep your story to one side of A4.
- Have fun writing it!

Check out our storytelling tips sheet overleaf for advice and useful links!

When your stories are finished, please send them with a title, your first name and age (if you're happy to share) to gina.thorley@eastleigh.gov.uk

If you want to use social media to tell us you've taken part, make sure to use the hashtag **#ConnectionPoint**.

We can't wait to read your creations!

Storytelling tips

Planning your story

Beginning: You set the scene and let us meet your characters.

Middle: What problem or obstacle does your character face?

Ending: Your character solves the problem!

Story prompts/ideas

- You could make a story out of a happy memory or positive past experience. Perhaps you could take what happened and twist it to make it more unusual or interesting?
- Setting the scene of your story can help you decide what you'd like to write. Is this happening in a real place you know well? A place you've made up?
- Think about the kind of stories you enjoy in books, films and TV. Would you like to write something similar? Maybe you're a fan of superheroes? Spies? Fantasy? Mysteries?

Your writing space

- If possible, try to find a place away from the rest of the activity in your home.
- Make sure you're sitting comfortably – ideally in a place where you can sit up straight and not strain your back or neck.
- Think about what you can hear. Do you work best in the quiet? Or perhaps you'd prefer some relaxing music. Is there a certain type of music that goes well with your story setting?
- If you like, use sticky notes, coloured pens – anything that helps you think!
- Take regular breaks! At least every 20 minutes or so.

Useful links

Prolifko – How To Write A Short Story
<https://prolifko.com/how-to-write-a-short-story-8-expert-tips/>

Kurt Vonnegut on How To Write A Good Short Story
www.openculture.com/2015/04/kurt-vonneguts-8-tips-on-how-to-write-a-good-short-story.html

Plot Generator – Random Story Ideas
www.plot-generator.org.uk/story-ideas/