

Writing a short story

UNESCO is running a campaign, #KindnessMatters, to create a positive culture of kindness. (<https://mgiep.unesco.org/kindness>)

It is collecting entries from youths around the world that tell a story about one of the K3: kindness for *self*, *others* and *nature* to compile a kindness anthology. Write and submit a short story of around 200-250 words.

A lesson in a lesson-kindness needs no repayment

Screech! I wheeled my bike around and saw him, the gangly boy from yesterday, who was sitting at the foot of the neighboring apartment entrance, forlornly, with a wooden stick in his hand and scratching the pavement. Last night, I had heard Mum say that he was staying with his grandparents while his mother was undergoing cancer treatment in America.

Wait! What was that glinting behind him? Wow! A new SpeedX Bike ... now *this* required an introduction.

I pedaled over to him and said, "Is that your bike?" He looked up and nodded.

"Want to join me for a ride?" I asked, "I found a good slope that needs testing."

He looked skeptically at my scabbed knees and slowly said, "Can't. I don't know how to ride it."

"You will never learn unless you try, will you? Come on, I will teach you." I offered.

The boy, Eric, was 9 years old, a year older than me. However, his sense of balance was worse than that of a baby's. The first day was disastrous, his bike fought him off like a raging bull. But, we persevered. Finally, after three days he got the hang of it and by the end of the week he was whooshing down slopes right next to me.

Three weeks of the summer holidays flew past, filled with crazy chases & rough rambunctious rides. Then, one morning I ran down to find that Eric wasn't there. I waited a while and ran back home to ask mum.

"Eric and his grandparents left early this morning, dear. They took him back to America." Mum said.

"But, he didn't even say goodbye." I mumbled in disbelief.

"I am sorry, dear. Maybe he will come back next summer." She replied. I walked back down to the bike stand. The wooden stick lay abandoned next to the fence. I shrugged, turned my bike around and wheeled off to my favourite slope.



#WORLD KINDNESS

DAY 2022



Short Story Writing Checklist

Do you have the following items in your story?

Items		Tick
Content		
• Setting / Time & place - information about the setting in the exposition		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• K3 – is the story about kindness for self (S), others (O) or nature (N)?	S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
• Rising action – events that lead to the need for kindness		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Climax – the story's most exciting part (the act of kindness)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Characterization – information about you in the exposition (age)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Falling action – events that happened after the act of kindness		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Resolution – what was the result of the act of kindness?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Language		
• Literary devices:	• Metaphor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	• Simile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	• Onomatopoeia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	• Personification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	• Alliteration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	• Triplets / repetition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	• Powerful verbs and adverbs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	• Emotive adjectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Good balance of narrative and dialogue		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Varied sentence lengths and sentence patterns		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Linking words (e.g. so, since, while, as a result, finally, etc.) are used to connect ideas, sentences & paragraphs		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Written using past tenses		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Style		
• Does it have a title?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does each example of direct speech start on a new line?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is the direct speech punctuated properly?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>