**A**

**A chicken getting ready to run**

By Nene, Zimbabwean aged 18

(Relocated to Borrisokane, Tipperary in late 2019)

In my picture the colours you can see are green, white, red and brown. You can’t see the chickens head clearly and there’s a peacock in background.

The reason I took this picture is it brings back childhood memories. It’s one of the few vivid memories I have of my grandmother on my father’s side. This picture makes me feels slightly embarrassed because I couldn’t catch the chicken. It ended up in the neighbours’ yard. But also fuzzy inside, because of the help we got and we were happy. When my brother and I couldn’t catch the chicken we persisted as our grandmother watched. Then our uncle came to help us. This shows that little laughs could become big lessons in life.

The message I want to leave is when a challenge is hard for you, help is all around but just you need to accept it. Especially help from God because sometimes people aren’t there.

Ps. Although my story is about a childhood memory featuring a chicken after sharing my picture with others at Youth Club I have just been told the picture is actually of a turkey, aaaah ☺**B**

**An average Friday afternoon**

By Karam, Nigerian aged 13

(Relocated to Borrisokane, Tipperary in late 2019)

In this picture I see a friend making a Taekwondo move. I took this picture because it reminds me of fun but also strict Taekwondo lessons I used to do with my friends when I was 8 in Nigeria. My martial arts teacher had us practicing our Taekwondo and everyone do drills.

This picture makes me think of my friends back in Nigeria and I don’t know how they are doing, especially with COVID as it has been 5 years since I have seen them. The message I want to leave you with is one no matter how hard things are, hard work will pay off in the end. Also don’t take time for granted, try to make the most of it.

**C**

**Blue & Yellow**

By Giovanni, South African aged 12

(Relocated to Borrisokane, Tipperary in late 2019)

What I see is the colours of blue and yellow, which make up the flag of the Ukraine. I see black writing explaining that it supports Ukraine. I see people surrounding the flag in support of the Ukraine.

The reason I took this picture is I wanted to show that I care about Ukraine and that the president of Russia “Vladimir Putin” is very wrong and with many children/people died during what feels like World War 3 to me. So that’s my reason. We need to help Ukraine by protesting and donating.

The message I want to leave you is I feel sad and happy at the same time but mostly sad, because this matter is very sad and Ukraine did nothing to Russia.

And when I say “happy”, I mean I’m happy to stand with Ukraine, that I can use my voice to speak up and out about what is happening.

**D**

**Breaking rules**

By Emmanuel, Zimbabwean aged 16

(Relocated to Borrisokane, Tipperary in late December 2019)

My picture has a beautiful sky colour, and a goal post that is about 10 feet away from the lens. The picture has a ball that is about to be kicked. The description of the ball-it looks damaged and used. Next to the goal post there’s a sign saying “keep off the grass”.

The reason I took this picture is I see a boy who is breaking rules, who just enjoys the sport he loves, even though it means using a ball in bad condition.

This picture has a lot of emotions. Such as love, determination, passion, and bravery. I could explain how the picture makes me feel but I think people may have different emotions towards it.

The message I want to leave you with is do what you love even if it means breaking a few rules.

**E**

**Enjoy it while you can**

By Ava aged 12

(member of the North Tipperary Traveller Project for 2 years)

I see a sparkly, elegant, dress with different layers, nice stuff and lots of bling!

The reason I took this picture is because it reminds me of the dress for my sister’s upcoming 1st holy communion, which will be a day where all our family come together to celebrate with you. The thought of my sister’s upcoming communion makes her so happy. My sister just loves trying the dress on and being it.

This is an exciting time with party and family celebration ahead and thinking of this make me happy. It is important to me to be a catholic and showing respect to the church on your day.

The message I want to say to my sister is to enjoy your first holy communion because you don’t get a second chance.

**F**

**Free Being Me**

By Chloe aged 13

(member of the North Tipperary Traveller Project for 6 years)

I see boxing gloves, winning awards, boxing pads, a radiator and floor covering in this picture.

The reason I took this picture is it reminds me of how I feel when I am boxing and that I am free to be me. I am proud that I box there and that is the club I box for. Boxing helps me clear my mind and it is something I enjoy doing. No one judges that I am Traveller, I am treated with respect in the boxing club and I am not treated differently and that means a lot to me. In my everyday life I get treated differently because I am a Traveller, like today when I went to the shops I got followed around by a Garda and I wasn’t doing anything wrong, it was down to me being a Traveller.

My message would be don’t care about what other people think ‘Do You’ find things you like doing and where you’re not judged and for me that’s Youth Club and Boxing Club.

**G**

**Friendship**

By Rima, Syrian aged 13

(Moved to Tipperary in 2021 as part of the Refugee Resettlement Project)

I like to take pictures so I chose that one. It’s about me and Alaa on the road and the sun was behind us. There’s a tree and clouds and houses.

The reason I took this picture is Alaa and I were walking and we saw the sun and we know that when the sun is behind us. That we would be able to take the photo and you would not be able to see the faces. The weather was cool.

To me this picture is about friendship. I like to have friends and Alaa is one of my best friends. When I get older I’ll remember that I had a great friend and this moment means so much to me.

My message is make friendships with the correct people and be nice to them. It’s not good to be mean. To be alone is not a nice thing.

**H**

**Friendship**

By Lee aged 16

(member of the Tipperary Town Youth Project for 6 years)

My picture is a photograph of the inside of the youth service building in Tipperary. There is a pool table, a couch, a chalkboard, and a cupboard full of art supplies in the back. The reason this picture makes me happy is because it reminds me of the six years I have spent in the youth services with my close friends. It reminds me of all the times I’ve spent working on projects with them, eating with them and hanging out with them.

The reason I chose this picture is because I believe it’s extremely important to be able to connect with people, trust them and enjoy their company. It’s very beneficial to not only you but the other people you spend your time with, I think your friends and people you hang around with reflect who you are and it’s amazing to be able to surround yourself with loyal, kind people.

My friends make me feel content and at peace with myself, and they make me laugh. Of course there will be days when you and your friends have disagreements but that’s human, what’s important is that you are able to apologise and forgive each other.

The message I want to share is to be around people who make you happy, make you laugh, cheer you up. Surround yourself with people you aren’t afraid to be 100% authentic around, people who make you feel comfortable. Pick your friends wisely and be cautious of what you tell people you can’t trust.

**I**

**Happiness**

By Sekinat, Nigerian aged 13

(Relocated to Borrisokane, Tipperary in late December 2019)

In my picture I can see a white, yellow, pink and green flower on the back of a copy. I took this picture because of how beautiful and elegant the flower is and also because of how it looks with the pink colour at the tip of the flower. I like this picture because the flower necklace was made and given to me by a friend from school.

This picture means to me that no matter how much something looks perfect there is always a mistake found in it even if you can’t notice it properly. The message I want to share is keep trying your best.

**J**

**Life as a Traveller Girl**

By Sophie aged 16

(member of the North Tipperary Traveller Project for 6 years)

I see my hands with a baby’s hands. I see someone who cares about their appearance with nice nails.

The reason for this picture is it reminds me of my baby sister and of minding children and the responsibilities I have as a girl in the Travelling community. From cooking, cleaning, minding children with a view to one-day marrying and having your own children. This is to help you be more capable and ready when the time comes to have your own children. I feel quite independent when I see this picture as I know I am able for and capable to handle the road ahead. At times I might find my siblings annoying but I know in time to come I will treasure the memories and the experiences and what I have learned from this.

I feel most men are useless and that you can never count on a man so my message would be to be strong in who you are.

**K**

**My Dream**

By Becky aged 16

(member of the North Tipperary Traveller Project for 9 years)

It’s a picture of a 2 two pink dummies which reminds me of my niece’s dummy which is full of diamonds.

The reason I took this is babies and children are an important part of my life. I want to work with children when I am older. I love babies as they are always either laughing or crying. I kind of click with them and they tend to love me I am really happy when I am with children, my true self comes out.

The picture makes me feel happy as it makes me think of my future and what I really want to do. I have a dream and vision for my future to set up a playschool for Traveller and country (Non traveller) children, babies and toddlers to be together and not to see one as better than the other. That we are all equal and there is no difference, that there is no bad in one we are the same with different cultures, maybe live differently have different beliefs but we are all people at the end of the day. A warm, inclusive nice, happy place.

If I could leave you with one message it would be don’t let what other people say to you hurt, it’s just words!

**L**

**My dog, Ted**

By Lola aged 17

(member of the Templemore Youth Project for 10 years)

What I see in this picture is my dog Ted. Ted is a Tibetan spaniel, he is old and grey nut really lovely, cute and fluffy. The reason I took this picture is I thought he looked really cute and comfortable stretching on the couch and I just wanted to capture the moment. This picture makes me feel happy as I really love my dog, he is my best friend. The message I want to leave you is that you should let the people in your live know you love them.

**M**

**My Journey**

By Sarah aged 17

(member of the Tipperary Town Youth Project for 6 years)

My picture is of a section of the road near my house. It’s not the prettiest of roads, it’s full of potholes and those annoying little stones that are just the right size to sneak into your shoes. It has also seen a lot of change over the years, from telephone lines to electric fences to dying plants. This road may be dead but it’s alive and thriving at the same time.

The reason I took this picture is because it reminds me of my childhood. The weather conditions and the angle of the photo remind me of the first time I ever cycled down this road, and fell off my bike for the first time on the same journey. I was 6 years old and had left a pack of markers at my grandparents’ house at the bottom of the hill, so my dad and I decided to cycle down to grab them. We were about halfway there when I lost my balance and took a tumble into the hedge, getting myself and my hot pink bike covered in muck in the process. This didn’t stop me from cycling on the road every day the following summer (and every summer afterwards) though.

This picture makes me feel nostalgic. While I was growing up I used to always hate where I lived but now, as someone who is almost 18 years of age, I feel so blessed and lucky to be able to say that I was raised in such a quiet area. This little road of mine might not have much to offer but it is where I will always call home.

**N**

**Night Sky**

By Zain, Syrian aged 10

(Moved to Tipperary in 2021 as part of the Refugee Resettlement Project)

There are trees in the picture. The picture shows the blue and red sky at the sunset.

There are also many houses.

The reason I took this picture is I like the sky colour at this time of day while some people don’t. Plus, it has my new home in Ireland which I like.

This picture means happiness to me as it makes me smile and feel good. It’s a picture of my new Irish home where I feel safe.

The message I want to leave you is while looking at the beautiful night sky, I think nothing can make you sad when you are with your family and friends.

**O**

**Reality**

By Andile, South African aged 14

(Relocated to Borrisokane, Tipperary in 2021)

What I see before me is a red and white flower. Surrounded by youthful green leaves that blends in to the environment despite being the odd one out.

I took this picture because life sometimes feels like it is going against you and looking at this flower puts a sense of meaning in my life.

When I see this flower it reminds me of how simple life can be when you take a simple breath while observing your surroundings.

I wanted to share this picture with someone in the hope if they see it might also have the same effect on them.

**P**

**Safe and Sound**

By Mohamad, Syrian aged 15

(Moved to Tipperary in 2021 as part of the Refugee Resettlement Project)

There is a police station in my picture. The reason I took this picture is because looking at the police station makes me feel safe. I like it that there is a police station in Templemore, where I now live.

This picture means feeling safe to me, so Templemore is a place where I can relax and enjoy things like going to the park, swimming and playing soccer. It gives me a good feeling.

The message I want to share is that the police can make us feel safe and protect us and that helps me feel happy.

**Q**

**Snowdrop**

By Alaa, Syrian aged 16

(Moved to Tipperary in 2021 as part of the Refugee Resettlement Project)

I took this picture in the early morning. The beauty and whiteness of the snow gives a feeling of reassurance, it’s unique and nice. I think when it snows, something inside of me starts moving.

My message to you is we must keep our hearts pure like the snow.

**R**

**Self-strength**

By Alaa Syrian aged 16

(Moved to Tipperary in 2021 as part of the Refugee Resettlement Project)

I took this picture when I was walking through the woods. It caught my attention. It was alone but around it there were a lot of flowers. Its simple colours are very beautiful.

It reminded me of a lot of things. It looks like me. In general, I consider myself as a self-reliant person, like this flower which relies on itself. Its colours make me happy.

My message to you is to Stay strong. Having a lot of people around you doesn’t mean strength. The strength you need is inside yourself.

**S**

**The calm of the night**

By Jenan, Syrian aged 17

(Moved to Tipperary in 2021 as part of the Refugee Resettlement Project)

I took this picture when I was with one of my friends. It was cold and rainy, So, I decided to take this picture because I like this weather.

I took this picture because I like the sky at night. It was clear and calm.

I feel that the night is the time to calm down and think about the good things and my beloved people.

My message to you would be after the day busyness, we have the night for ourselves to have a rest and relax.

**T**

**The Rainbow**

By Leo aged 16

(member of the Tipperary Town Youth Project for 6 years)

I saw a rainbow on the way out of my house. It caught my attention because of how vibrant it was against the sky.

The reason I took this picture is it symbolised to me the LGBT flag after I had just come out to my mother as Trans. After seeing it so soon after my coming out I connected them to each other and thought it was a funny coincidence and it just reminds me how on that day I had finally built up the courage to come out and finally not have to keep my identity a secret.

The picture means a lot to me as it just reminds me that’s it’s okay to be proud of who I am and not to have to hide that about myself, as it was the day I could finally tell my mother who I am and not have to be afraid to be myself.

A message I want to leave with this is that it’s okay to be afraid of not being accepted, but at the end of the day the only person who needs to accept you is yourself and it’s ok to be who you are.

**U**

**The Spilt**

By Mariam, Nigerian aged 13

(Relocated to Borrisokane, Tipperary in late 2019)

In my picture there is an apple.

The reason I took this picture is one side is red while the other is yellow. They can be split in the middle into two halves but together they are whole.

This picture shows to me that no matter what colour we are, together we are all one. Whenever I look at this picture it reminds me that together we are whole and equal.

The message I want to leave is no matter what colour we are all human.

Ps. I did eat the apple after taking the picture ☺

**V**

**The Things You Sea in the Sky**

By Meagan aged 17

(member of the Templemore Youth Project for 5 years)

This is a picture of the sun as it approaches sunset and it sits liw in the sky. The sea is visible in the background, just beyond a singular plant that catches your eye. There is a grass plant to the right of the photo. Clouds lazily cover the sky and its bright blue colour.

The reason I took this photo is because I usually always take photos of the sky when it looks pretty. On this particular day, I was driving with my mam to her birthday dinner and my mother told me to take a picture of the sky so she could show it to her clients at work. We were in Galway, our home place, and she thought I should take a few pictures on the drive as the scenery is so different to Tipperary. I love taking photos and I wanted to share that with my mother’s clients.

This picture as I said was taken in Galway. I have always loved my trips to visit family and this picture was taken on the way to a family event. It reminds me of sitting by the sea for hours at a time as the sea is visible in the photo. It reminds me of having peace and quiet sitting at the pier. I always love looking at the sky and its ability to change with the day.

The message I want to share is that sometimes it’s nice to look up and not feel down for a while. Take a chance to look at the scenes around you.

**W**

**Where I came from**

By Clodagh aged 14

(member of the North Tipperary Traveller Project for 2 years)

I see the horse, wagon, the details of the wagon, the pattern, the inside, the curtains and everything.

The reason I chose this picture is because it is my culture and it makes me proud of where I am from and how my family was brought up. This photo makes me feel special knowing my grandfather and nanny were brought up in the wagon and now we can carry on the tradition and make my grandparents proud.

My message to you is no matter what no matter how much laughing people do at you never be ashamed of where you came from.