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CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION: READ FOUNDATION'S RESPONSE TO THE IMPACT OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC ON EDUCATION.

READ Foundation is a charity dedicated to providing educational opportunities to some of the poorest communities in the world. We are pleased to announce our first educational initiative in the UK.

Education is a right not a luxury. READ Foundation is launching an initiative to nurture the creativity of students. A recent study¹ has shown that due to the disruption the pandemic has caused, children have lost up to 30% of their study time – a day and a half of learning every week. Because of this, READ Foundation decided to launch a creative writing competition for students.

Write for READ 2021

On World Children's Day, READ Foundation launched Write for READ, a creative writing competition for pupils aged between 5-16. It's open till 11th January 2021 for children across the UK to enter. Entrants have the option to submit a non-fiction piece based on their lives during the pandemic or they can submit a fictional piece from a prompt provided. The competition is free to enter and winners can receive a share of over £600 in prizes! Schools are encouraged to participate and READ Foundation are keen to build links with schools for further projects.

Sarah Salam, a trustee of READ Foundation said:

"Communities here in the UK have been severely impacted by restricted access to education due to COVID 19. This is especially prevalent in more economically deprived areas of the UK. We had to do something. We knew we had to support, but in a more creative way."

"We aim to provide a creative outlet for all children in the UK, which will hopefully allow them to express their thoughts and feelings on how COVID 19 has affected them."

Entries will be assessed by a team of expert readers and then finalised by a panel of guest judges. Full information regarding the rules and judging process can be found on the competition page.

Entries close midnight on 11th January 2021. Please visit <https://readfoundation.org.uk/write-for-read/>

For further information contact Zahid.rehman@readfoundation.org.uk

Reference

1. University of Southampton, Learning inequalities during the Covid-19 pandemic: how families cope with home-schooling, Oct 2020 <https://eprints.soton.ac.uk/442619/>