

IT'S LIT(ERARY)

Fighting Words

&

DLR Libraries



dlrLexicon



2021/22

IT'S LIT(ERARY)

A collection of short stories by young people from the Dún
Laoghaire-Rathdown area

About It's Lit(erary)

It's Lit(erary) was born in 2020, as a dlr Libraries offering to teens who were stuck at home. It grew to a book recommendation blog to two videos with Irish YA writers. Now, it is a collaboration between Fighting Words, dlr Libraries, local schools and local young people - new short stories to celebrate Young Adult Literature and Young Adult voices to be published as a digital anthology.

Each story is full of fun, action, intense cliffhangers and very inventive characters.

Congratulations to all the writers for their fantastic achievement!

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Fighting Words

Fighting Words is a creative writing centre established in 2009 by Roddy Doyle and Séan Love in Dublin. Fighting Words aims to help students of all ages to develop their writing skills and to explore their love of writing.

dlr Libraries

dlr Libraries along with the Arts Office form part of the Community, Culture & Parks Department in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. The mission of the library service is to connect and empower people, inspire ideas and support community potential. The county has eight branch libraries serving the educational and recreational needs of all who live, work or study in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

IT'S LIT(ERARY)

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Two Spies In Denial

Holy Child Community School, Sallynoggin

Joseph and Linda were in an office discussing a plan for their break-in. They were standing over the blueprint of the secret facility in London.

"This information can help millions of people, should we leak it or should we wait?" said Joseph in shock.

"But we could die!" Linda's voice shook and her face froze. "I don't want to die, I want to live."

They finally made their way to the secret facility and when they got there they found a complicated security system. The first obstacle they had to overcome was lasers. Linda was confident that she could make it through. She rushed through and just before she reached the other side, she tripped and almost hit a laser. Luckily, Joseph pulled her back.

"You owe me one," hissed Joseph.

"I'm very sorry." replied Linda.

Eventually, the two spies made it through the lasers. When they entered the next room there were two pressure points on the floor. They had to stand on one which meant there was a fifty-fifty chance they would make it through.

"If something happens...it was nice knowing you," Joseph hugged Linda.

Linda was a bit confused but shrugged it off and thought maybe Joseph was being friendly.

They stepped on the left pressure point.

CRACK.

A door suddenly opened across the room. Joseph and Linda sighed in relief.

“Thank god that’s over,” said Joseph as he put his arm around Linda very awkwardly. Linda raised one eyebrow like The Rock.

They walked through the door into an empty dark room with a keyboard sitting in the middle surrounded by a spotlight. They spotted some music notes on the wall written in blood.

Linda gasped and made eye contact with Joseph as her face turned yellow in shock. Joseph shrugged it off.

“Don’t worry about it sweetheart,” Joseph winked at Linda as he strutted over to the keyboard. He stared at the music notes in concentration with a serious look on his face.

“What are you doing?” Linda shouted.

Joseph ignored Linda as he pressed on a key. Suddenly, an eerie high-pitched sound echoed across the room and electric currents ran through their bodies for a few seconds. When it stopped, Linda dropped to the floor. Joseph, still in agony, limped over while holding his leg.

“Noooooo,” Joseph shook Linda and checked her pulse but didn’t feel anything. He shed a tear.

Joseph rose confidently and swore he would finish the mission for her.

The final door opened and Joseph walked through. A table stood in the centre of the room with a spotlight beaming on the capsules that held the cures. Joseph took them in his hands and immediately fell to the ground. The adrenaline that ran through his veins faded and before he could draw his last breath, he took out his phone and took a video of the cures. He uploaded it to Twitter and exposed the information to millions of people...

1941

St. Joseph of Cluny, Killiney

Sarah and Steve were walking home from school, having a conversation. They heard gunshots in the far distance but they were so used to it that they just kept walking. They glanced at the many posters encouraging everyone to join the army.

Sarah sensed some awkwardness between them and asked, "is something wrong with you?"

Steve tensed and fidgeted with his hands, "I'm leaving today."

His voice began to shake. Sarah stopped walking to take a second to process. Her face was blank as tears built behind her eyes.

"Where are you going, why?" Sarah asked concerned. She knew what he meant but didn't want to believe that it was true.

"I got called up to join the army."

"Please don't go," she said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

They could hear the sirens of ambulances coming down the road and saw people being brought out in stretchers. They saw loads of soldiers coming onto the scene. When Sarah saw the soldiers, she cried harder because she didn't want something like that to happen to Steve.

"I have no choice," replied Steve in a stern voice as he took a step back from her. Sarah jumped into his arms and Steve embraced her awkwardly.

"I'm going to miss you," she cried in his arms as she clung onto him and stuttered, "y-y-you're my best friend."

Eventually, Steve broke down.

Later that day, Sarah was helping Steve pack. The room was tense and awkward with silence. Sarah was folding and unfolding the same piece of clothing with the hopes that she would delay him so he would miss his train.

Steve slowly began to get agitated with Sarah. He snatched the shirt off her, sighed dramatically, and shoved the shirt into his duffle bag.

"I'd be quicker doing this myself," mumbled Steve.

Sarah shot Steve a death stare and stomped out of the room and slammed the door. She bottled her tears until she made it out of the house and then broke down on the porch.

Steve felt guilty when he saw his best friend hurt. He allowed himself a minute to get into his feels before he switched his emotions off. He knew that if he was going to fight in this war, he had to toughen up.

Sarah ran home crying needing time to herself. She heard hooves and the clattering of carriage wheels. When she looked out her window, she saw Steve heading to the train station. She headed for the station but she felt empty and her heart dropped when she saw the train pull out of the station. She knew she would never see Steve again.

Three months later...

Sarah received a telegram informing her that Steve was lost in combat. Her face turned white and she dropped the telegram. She immediately grabbed the nearest backpack and stuffed it with clothes and food.

She wrote her Mum an apologetic letter while she was in work. Sarah hopped the next train and hid in the weapons cargo heading across Europe.

A while later, Sarah heard a door creak open and the shouts of soldiers.

"Suche in de Wagons," said a stern, deep voice. Sarah didn't understand what the soldiers were saying.

She tried to sneak away from the weapons cargo so as not to be found. She accidentally knocked over a box of weapons which caught the soldiers' attention. They snatched her up and dragged her through the other carriages.

As she was brought in front of a group of powerful soldiers, they turned to see what the commotion was.

When Sarah looked up, she saw someone very familiar. She was heartbroken when she realised that it was Steve. Part of her was happy to see her best friend but the other part was horrified that he was a traitor. He had joined the other side.

She locked eyes with him hoping that he would give her some sort of reaction. She noticed that his face was blank and began to scream.

"How could you do this! You're a traitor!"

Steve remained still as she shouted while a single tear rolled down her face. Sarah was forced to the ground and suddenly, she felt the cold tip of a gun on the side of her head and the click of a gun.

When she looked over her shoulder, she saw Steve.

"I'm sorry, I love you," he whispered as he brushed a soft kiss to her cheek.

BANG.

Clone 98

Loreto College, Foxrock

When Alyria opened her eyes she assumed Heaven became Barbie's dream house. Her nose tingled with the overwhelming stench of bleach and her head pounded. The spark of a match hit her cold bare arm. When she fully opened her eyes, all she saw was a strange ginger man.

"G'day mate, do you feel okay?" grunted Carl.

His deep voice and his beady eyes slowly brought back memories of a childhood friend.

Suddenly, flashbacks of an explosion, old photographs and a voice screaming "RUN" came back to her. She remembered the claustrophobic feeling, someone's eyes fixed on her, and a loud beeping sound.

Carl tried to wipe the hair from her eyes when she flinched. Her heart raced and she groaned.

"Al, do you remember anything at all?" asked Carl, sickeningly sweet with a hint of concern in his voice.

"Al?" Alyria paused trying to place the familiar name. "I remember bits and pieces."

Instantly, she felt a sharp jolt in her arm and the energy drained from her body.

When Alyria finally came to her senses, she felt something wet and slimy dripping down her face. She opened her eyes and saw a really large canid-like creature with three green eyes. She wiped the slime from her face using her hand.

She yelped with joy, "Oh my god, a dog!"

The creature shot her a death stare. Alyria immediately became uncertain as she rose from the medical table very slowly and fidgeted, her eyes darted around the hot pink Barbie room. She attempted to roll off the table when she heard the rustling of paper under her foot. The creature cocked its head in curiosity.

She glanced down and saw the files. One was titled Clone 98, but the thing that peaked her interest was the photograph of her.

She became distracted by the sound of the increasing blare of Britney Spears' 'Oops I Did It Again'. She heard the loud thud of a door and immediately jumped back onto the table pretending to be asleep.

Carl's lab assistant, Robert, sauntered into the room, arm in arm with Carl.

"I can't believe it, she's just so talented!" Alyria growled quietly when she heard the flamboyant voice.

"Get over yourself, we have more important things to think about than Britney Spears," snapped Carl before he whistled a familiar tune to call over his tibicena.

"Carl Junior!"

Out of nowhere, Alyria smelled the alluring and secure scent of Nutella on toast. The scent triggered the memory of her childhood friend.

She cautiously peeked when she heard Carl say, "Clone 98 has passed all of her tests."

"Her results show that she is becoming too self-aware."

Alyria's heart thumped and she tried to calm it down because she did not want to be heard.

"Okay, let's scrap 98. Clone 99 is next..."

Soggy, Sandy Socks

Cabinteely Community School

"Oh fiddlesticks!" Rick the Stick screamed as their lifeboat drifted away from a flying meatball.

Tim Bob looked back to see his beloved SS Deli Crusader sinking. Rick the Stick picked up an oar to row away but ended up going in circles before they were hit by a canon-sized meatball.

"Yum!" exclaimed Tim Bob before they were knocked out.

A while later, Rick the Stick and Tim Bob woke up feeling dizzy to a view of a tropical island.

While Tim Bob licked the remaining meatball off his nose, Rick the Stick noticed that the island was not far from the reef that they were drifting toward.

"That island is probably a death trap," said Tim Bob jokingly. He let out an enormous, monstrous burp that gave them a giant heave halfway to the island.

Rick the Stick rowed them closer to shore and noticed that their lifeboat was beginning to sink and the water was rising up to their ankles.

"Arrr, mate, me boots are filling with water and me socks are getting wet," moaned Tim Bob.

"No one cares about your socks, we're trying to get to safety," snapped Rick the Stick.

Rick the Stick stomped off the lifeboat while Tim Bob stumbled out of it. Tim Bob dropped his saddle with all of his precious things.

"Shiver me timbers, not me map, me extra socks, me toe scratcher and me teddy Meatball," cried Tim Bob in devastation.

He tried to retrieve the saddle but was forced back by a clear shield.

He tried again and again until he shrugged it off and followed Rick the Stick.

Rick the Stick looked back and rolled his eyes as he dragged his hand down his face. He made his way through the beach and into the forest area.

As night fell, they saw a fire in the far distance and decided to follow it.

Suddenly, Tim Bob took a step only to realise that he could not move his legs. He panicked as he felt cold sand filling up his breeches and began to sink.

"Great, now me socks are wet AND sandy!"

Rick the Stick ignored Tim Bob and kept focusing on the fire ahead. The closer he got, he made out a crowd of people dancing.

But, they were not people.

Meanwhile, Tim Bob sank further and further until he no longer felt the sand pulling at his toes. He squirmed and tried to scream except he inhaled lots of sand. He kicked out when he felt hands grab his wet, sandy socks.

Tim Bob was reefed down into a cave where he came face to face with a masked tribe.

Back on the surface, Rick the Stick was drawn to the glistening of a bottle. When he picked it up, he found an old, dirty map that was ripped into three. At the bottom corner, he saw a surname and a symbol that looked familiar to him.

"That looks like the Lost Captain's map."

Rick the Stick stuffed it into his pocket and rushed to climb a tree so as to not get spotted by the tribe.

"Tim Bob!" he whispered. "Climb up and look at this."

Rick the Stick gasped when he realised that Tim Bob was missing but then realised that this might work for him.

“FINALLY!” he shouted triumphantly and jumped with glee before he fell through many branches and smacked his head a few times. He face planted into the wet muck that reminded of a pig sty.

He panicked when he realised that his wooden leg had snapped in half. He let out a roar and wailed. After a brief moment of crying and thinking, he found a thick branch and crafted a new leg.

Suddenly, he noticed a member of the dancing tribe was pointing at him. He squinted his eyes and saw that the tribe was cloaked in dark shadows. Each time he blinked they took a step closer.

He tried to crawl his way to a run but he wasn't yet used to his new wooden leg. He finally picked up a pace but smashed into something bouncy.

He thought the figure on the stick looked familiar. He caught a glimpse of the masked tribe before everything went black.

Tim Bob's hands started to feel tingly from having his hands up and tied for so long.

“Yo mate, how's your day been?” asked Tim Bob. He brushed their ignorance and kept trying to make conversation. They arrived at the enemy tribe's clearing for the Festival of Tribes.

Tim Bob's stick was placed over a fire for roasting and glanced at Rick the Stick's pyre.

“Ay Rick,” said Tim Bob in a jolly voice.

Instantly, Rick the Stick woke up and swiveled and wiggled frantically only to realise that he was on a stick. He could hear Tim Bob's voice beside him. He groaned in disappointment.

The two tribes were chanting in a weird language and dancing, the leaders came forward to negotiate terms.

“Give us the map,” one of the leaders whispered in a deep, calm voice.

"I don't care what you want, you'll never get the map!" replied Tim Bob confidentially.

"Wait, you found a map too?" Rick the Stick muttered confused but also excited because he knew this was their way out.

"Nah."

"Whatever," he snapped at Tim Bob. "I have the map!"

The two tribes immediately paused and looked over at the pirates on the sticks.

They all made to grab for Rick the Stick. They ripped the ropes from his hands and carried away from the fire. One of the leaders managed to take the map and began to argue amongst themselves.

While they were distracted, Rick the Stick untied Tim Bob and ordered him to take care of the tribes. He ran to fetch a boat.

"I'm feeling very hungry," Tim Bob's belly grumbled. A light bulb appeared above his head. He licked his lips and looked at the tribes like they were dessert.

After some time, Tim Bob gobbled up the tribes.

"I'm stuffed, that was the most delicious tribe I've ever eaten."

He made his way toward Rick the Stick and the runaway ship.

When he reached them, Rick the Stick was trying to break the shield by pushing the giant ship through it.

"Tim Bob, get up and steer the ship!"

Before he could move a muscle, Tim Bob let out a massive belch. All of a sudden, bones, meatballs, gold, socks and three pieces of a map flew from his mouth. The belch was so strong that it broke the clear shield.

Rick the Stick screamed with joy when he put all the pieces of the map together.

"This will take us home," said Rick the Stick.

They both climbed onto the deck and sailed for home. It took them two weeks to find their way home when Tim Bob remembered that his sandy, wet socks were still on the island.

Tim Bob dived into the sea with a gigantic, monstrous splash and swam back to the island to retrieve his sandy, wet socks...

The Nightmare of the Testing Lab

Cabinteely Community School

“Oh my god David!” whispered Emilia as she panted. She began to cry. “We created a creature.”

Emilia and David smelled something burning in the underground testing lab. It was hidden beneath the old train station that was long ago abandoned. They had moved to electric trains above ground.

Emilia screamed when she heard rats screeching along the tunnels. David jumped a little but tried to hide his fear. But inside, his heart was going ninety.

Suddenly, they heard a woman cackling.

“Oh my god David,” mocked the woman in a high pitched tone.

Emilia and David spun around to see the creature with no eyes. Emilia froze on the spot when she saw its creepy smile. Its mouth was huge but it had no teeth. David took off for the lab.

Emilia finally ran towards David. They reached the main entrance which was made from the old carousel. They managed to lock the door and put a crowbar between the handles for extra safety. They heard the whoosh of its tiptoes and body moving towards the door rapidly.

“What have we done!” mumbled Emilia.

“It’s all your fault!” David shouted from the top of his lungs.

Eventually, the creature broke through the door. It chased them all the way through the lab until it grabbed Emilia and impaled her on its spider-like features that came out of its back.

Immediately, David woke up in a sweat, his breathing heavy. He shook off the nightmare and made his way to school.

David was really worried that his nightmare was real...

He made his way to his base class and began to panic when Emilia didn't show up after a while. When the bell rang, he jumped out of his seat and sped walked around the school swiftly searching for her.

The last place he could think of was the basement so he slid down the ladder. He scrunched his nose when the old, dusty smell hit his nostrils. He was swinging his arms through the cobwebs.

"Ahhh!" he squealed when he stubbed his big toe off the corner of the wall.

All of a sudden, he heard the quick sound of toes tapping against the floorboards. A door creaked open and David immediately pulled out his phone and turned the flashlight on.

Nothing seemed amiss. He breathed heavily as he heard loud breathing and toe tapping from the next room. He took a few steps back when he heard the aggressive note of a piano. He stumbled back and tripped over a floorboard into something slimey.

When he looked up, he saw a horrifying face and Emilia's signature round glasses. He fainted.

A while later, he woke up shackled. His arms and legs were chained to a wall and the creature dribbled on him. Further in the distance, he could see a figure coming towards them holding more chains.

David stopped his squirming when he realised that the figure was Emilia. He froze, his jaw dropped and his eyes went wide with shock.

Out of nowhere, someone jumped down the ladder and rushed into the room. They grabbed a nearby crowbar and ran to David to check for injuries.

"Are you okay?" they asked. David was relieved when he saw the figure in dark clothes, their hoodie covering their hair and mask covering their face.

The figure attacked Emilia and the creature with the crowbar and their kickboxing moves. With one kick to the face, the creature rocked and stumbled back. They went for the finish with a knee to the snout and the creature was out cold.

Emilia hurried to the creature while the figure helped David out of his chains. As they made their way across the basement, the figure poured gasoline all over the floor. They scurried up the ladder and the figure threw a lit match into the basement.

David turned his head not wanting to see his friend burn alive. At the last minute, he ran for some water but he was too late...

The Other Way

Local Young People

"Where is it?!" Katherine cried. The waterlogged underbrush sank beneath her leather boots as she searched for it thoroughly behind trees and under bushes.

"We must find a solution," growled Willow as she flittered around Katherine.

Katherine became irritable with the small dragon, partly due to the fact that she had not eaten for over two hours.

"I know! I'm trying to find it," snapped Katherine as she continued her search for the passage that would lead to a different world.

This world contained a rare violet plant that would help with her experiment to defeat death.

Katherine checked her timepiece, "Two hours is not enough to look for the passage in a forest this big."

She rolled her eyes at the dragon who kept hovering over her. She flicked her hair behind her elven ears and was drawn to the sound of a loud rumble.

"W-w-what's happening?" howled Willow.

Suddenly, they heard crashing and reverberating footsteps followed by the quick approach of a giant creature. Katherine realised that it was not from her world but from beyond the passage. She recalled reading about such creatures when researching for the plant that would defeat death.

Willow coiled around Katherine's arm but Katherine was too focused on the creature.

On instinct, she pulled a monster plant out of her satchel and crushed the leaf between her fingers. She held out her hand and the creature bent down to sniff it before eating it right out of her palm.

The creature teetered and then slammed to the forest floor in a deep sleep.

Up ahead, the passage appeared and Katherine sprinted towards it, with not much time left.

The closer she got, the more the passage closed until finally she dived in recklessly, Willow still clutching her. The passage winked out with a pop...

Class Lists

Two Spies in Denial

Holy Child Community School

2nd Year

Teacher: Graham Walsh

Fisal Ashrani	Noah Lawrence
Stuart Byrne	Charlie Mitchell
Ryan Dixon	Daniel Thornton
Magda Held	Harrison Torries
Peter Hunter	Cali Webster
Ahmad Ismail	Sean Traynor
Blessing Kabonga	Sarah White

Clone 98

Loreto College Foxrock

Mixed Years

Teacher: Jennie Corcoran

Librarian: Helen

Naisha Agarwal - First Year	Isobella Coleman - Second Year
Kristina Batt - First Year	Elodie Cosgrove - Second Year
Eve Byrne - First Year	Aoife Hutchinson - Second Year
Aimee Darby - First Year	Joanne Kenny - Second Year
Alex English - First Year	Martyna murray - Second Year
Hannah Grogan - First Year	Catherine O'Kelly - Second Year
Nell Grzybowska - First Year	Jennifer O'Rourke - Second Year
Lauryn Healy - First Year	Aoide Smyth - Second Year
Linda Mohammad - First Year	Orla Teyssou - Second Year
Lucy Oliver - First Year	Ella Grogan - Third Year
Rachel Reck - First Year	Anahita Mathur - Third Year
Shannon Sun - First Year	Aoife Williams - Fourth Year
Moana Sun - First Year	Yovela Fubara - Fifth Year

1941

St. Joseph of Cluny, Killiney

1st Year

Teacher: Helen Regan

Librarian: Teresa

Aisling	Ella
Camila	Erin
Isabelle	Ava
Cora	Sriritra

Soggy, Sandy Socks

Cabinteely Community School

1st Year

Teacher: Caoimhe Tully

Jessica Bell	Emma Elbert	Carly McDonald
Dylan Brennan	Danylo Faiden	Paul Murray
Jenson Bridgeman	Polina Faiden	Jasmine O'Brien
Leah Carney	Molly Greene	Callum Smyth
Jonathon Degani	Jayden Leigh	Katie Smyth
Rihanna Devlin	Addison Matthews	James Tallant
Lily Donnelly	Daniel McCabe-McArdle	Hannah-May Wallace
Kealum Douglas	Glen McDonald	Teagan Walsh O'Toole

The Nightmare of the Testing Lab
Cabinteely Community School
1st Year
Teacher: Heather McQuirk

Heidi Byrne	Lexie Heffernan	Sadie Merriman
Kaden Byrne	Jessica Kane	Isabel Mitchell
Saoirse Carragher	Kaydn Keating O'Brien	Céilum Mooney-Brack
Freya Corish	Lorelai Kennedy	Dominik Niemierzycki
Killian Daly	Tadhg Keogh	Mia Katie O'Hanlon-Horan
Isis Dixon	Conor Kernan	Cody Ryan
Wyatt Earls	Louis Lyu	Naomi Slevin
Youssef Fahmy	Amy Merrigan Kane	

The Other Way
Local Young People
Organiser: dlr Libraries

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FIGHTING WORDS



The write to right.

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