

Poetry, Art and Song: Listening to Our Service Children

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NSI Beginnings...



Never Such Innocence
The Centenary of
the First World War

Children's Responses through Poetry, Art and Song



Workshops

- Delivered by industry professionals
- DBS checked
- 90 Minutes
- Finished piece of work at the end of each session

'It was amazing to see how invested they were in sharing their thoughts and feelings, the power of poetry will never stop amazing me. I have seen a real drive and need from the students to tell their personal story, so this is definitely something that I will need to create safe opportunities for in our classes in the future.'

- Orsolya Dunn - ESOL / Core Skills Lecturer (East Ayrshire)



Roadshows and Events





CONVERSATIONS ON CONFLICT

What does war mean to you?

How does war affect people's lives?

How do we prevent future wars?



VOICES OF **ARMED FORCES CHILDREN**



Father's Son

By David, 16-18, Scotland

See me, April ten years ago, wearing Dad's old T-shirt
listening to The Stones,
Blissfully unburdened by his quiet groans.
Truly, I am my father's son,
I didn't know him when he was in the Army-
I know him without armour as a part of my family.
I didn't know him when he could stand with pride;
I only know him with pain in his stride.
A soul deep agony no medicine can subside.
I didn't know him before Arthritis to strain him
And divide us. I don't know his past tense
all his glory and hidden strengths Able-body,
able to wield both me and my sister,
not like now where he struggles in the warmth of winter.
I only know the contradiction of stories and places he's been.
Not really knowing the man, the brother, the son,
and the conflict he's seen.
I wish I could have met my dad in the Army
Before he was sick, but no matter what, he'll be a part of my family.

Our Methods

- Our goal is to create a safe space, where children feel comfortable reflecting on their thoughts, feelings and memories.
- No wrong answers or requirement to share.
- Our practitioners use simple questions, images, poems and stories of their own lived experiences. How arts have helped them.
- Workshop participants start writing / creating straight away
- By the end, they will have a piece created
- The techniques can help with their GCSE papers, creative writing
- We encourage them to share these in their poems, speeches, songs and artwork, both within the classroom and at special events. This develops their public speaking skills

What makes the workshops special

- We predominantly work with mixed groups of service / civilian children. This promotes empathy and discussion, whilst observing the impact of service life on both groups.
- The workshops shine a light on how the young people are doing and what might currently be on their minds - this can be especially helpful for teachers and pastoral staff
- Participation in workshops can lead to some very exciting opportunities!

A Military Friendship

She is moving away
she is moving this year
we will do something special
like a sleepover and we will sleep in tents.
Maybe watch a movie and invite all our friends.
I'd never want that day to end.
I'm sure we will see each other again,
as we are not too far apart.
I know she will make other friends
and I know I will too!
We might see each other on holiday
but I'm sure we will live near each other when
we grow up.
So we could see each other every day!
Face-to-face.
I will miss her,
by my side every day,
playing together and drawing.
Giving gifts to each other at school
we never have fights
we always get along
so this friendship will never end

Mia - 9-11 - Civilian





Paste New Slide Section

Casted Section

bethzienna

Waiting at the dockyard
Time is moving slow
great anticipation
someone's coming home

Waiting at the airhead
Time apart is hard
No more need to worry
When you're in my arms

Chorus:
Welcome home
Feeling proud together
We are family
No ones left alone

Come on home
It's so nice to see ya
Been a while since
We've had this, I know
So, wel-come home

Waiting at the Barracks
Standing side by side
All in this together
Full of strength and pride

*In the Armed Forces
Lives are on the line
Seen so many things
But they keep their spirit
high*

Chorus:
Welcome home
Feeling proud together
We are family
No ones left alone

Come on home
It's so nice to see ya
Been a while since
We've had this, I know
So, wel-come home

Time to celebrate

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Armed Forces Children's Choir

6-18 years old

How Groups Participate:

- Entering the Competition - 1 April - 2 May
- Singing Along: Dandelions
- Dressing Up: Wear purple on April 25th!

"The Creative Poetry workshops were a lovely way to enrich our Month of the Military Child discussions in school. They coincided with our wear something purple day and feedback from parents indicated that the Military Children in our school were made to feel very special when talking about the things that make them unique. Having NSI lead the sessions allowed both military and civilian children to express how moving schools, changing friendships and parents working away affects so many children in schools every month of the year."

- Jo Wilson, Armed Forces Champion, Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy



9-11 - Field of dandelions by Lara - Army



Poetry and Art Competition - 1 April - 2 May

Theme: Memories

- Poetry and Art Competition - Open for children 8+
- Best School Display - NEW!
- Each participant receives a personalised certificate
- Winning work is published in a digital booklet
- Winners receive prizes and invitation to London for an award ceremony



The Views on Moving House

Nothing is worse than living life as a dandelion
So don't tell me
I'll make new friends and we will have a great time
Just imagine!
Such uncertainty
Why feel
You must embrace the change
Don't you think
Fitting in is challenging
I don't believe
Moving house gives us opportunities

Zoe B - Army - 9-11 - MotMC 2024 Winner



Month of the Military Child Award Ceremony





Dandelions

Chorus: 'Cause we are dandelions
Where we plant our feet, we grow
Cause we are dandelions
We go where the wind blows

Past the planes, through the rain
No where that we can't go
We belong, standing strong
Everybody here knows
Past the planes, through the rain
No where that we can't go
We belong, standing strong
Everybody here knows
We fly where the wind blows

Chorus

We keep on thriving, weaving through
We keep on diving, like we do
Dig into the soil, growing roots
We're growing up, moving
We keep on improving
Like we do

Chorus x2

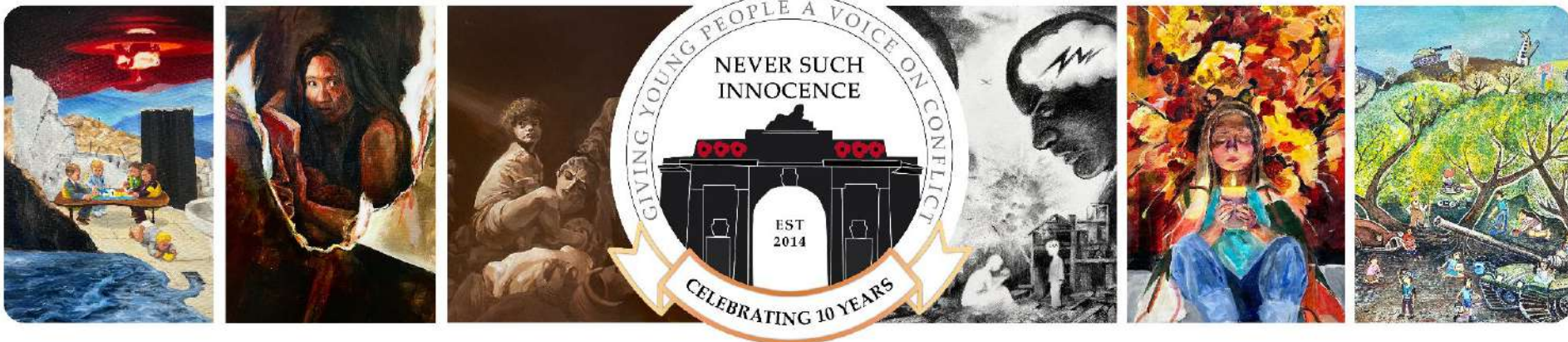


Dandelions



Chorus 1





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