



In January 2021 Pop Up Projects celebrates 10 years of transforming children's lives through literature. To mark this special occasion, we're commissioning and publishing **Ten Stories to Make a Difference**: ten original short stories for young readers by ten writers and ten illustrators. To make this venture especially unique, five famous illustrators will illustrate stories by five emerging writers, and five emerging illustrators will illustrate stories by five famous writers.

Each story will explore or touch on the theme of *difference*. Stories can be inspired by the subject in any way - they might explore diversity or transformation, otherness or other worlds - wherever the writers and illustrators want to go! Each story will be 10 pages long, between 750 and 3,000 words, professionally edited and art directed, beautifully designed and lovingly hand-printed in a special small print-run limited edition. They'll be launched at our 10th birthday party, and sold as part of our campaign to raise £1million to engage 100,000 more young readers, writers and illustrators over the next five years.

Pop Up will pick **three** winning entries to take forward, Each winning entrant will:

- Receive a £500 fee for their story
- Be matched with a published children's illustrator, who will illustrate their story
- Get time with a publishing editor and art director to perfect their story
- Be published in a short print run, and receive 10 copies of their book
- Feature in a major promotional campaign as well as at Pop Up's 10th birthday party

COMPETITION ENTRANTS

We're seeking entries from exceptionally talented young writers with ambitions to become children's authors. Entrants might be just starting out on their careers, and may have been published once or twice already. Entrants must be under 26 years old at the time of submission date (30th July). Because one of Pop Up's core values is to tackle the low level of minority perspectives in children's literature by empowering the next generation of diverse voices, we particularly encourage writers of colour, writers with special educational needs, writers with disabilities, and writers who identify as LGBTQ+ to enter.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

Entrants should submit:

1. A very strong draft of a story inspired by the theme of *difference*, of between 750 and 3,000 words in length. Stories can be in any genre and in any of the following forms:
 - Picture book text for young readers
 - Prose fiction for any age up to YA
 - Poetry, either a collection of individual poems (connected by the theme) or a single long poem, for any age

Stories must be submitted in Word docs, without illustration or images of any kind, and not designed in any way. Illustrated submissions will not be considered.

2. A covering letter - with full contact details - introducing the entrant, plus: (A) a title for the story; (B) a single sentence summary of the story maximum 25 words; and (C) a short biography, maximum 50 words
3. A face photograph of the entrant

HOW TO ENTER

Entries must be submitted by email to tenstories@pop-up.org.uk or by post to Pop Up Projects CIC, 5 Paper Mill Buildings, City Garden Row, London N1 8DW

Entries must be received by **Friday 30th July 2020**. Entries received after this date will not be accepted. Winning entrants will be notified by **Friday 14th August 2020**.

ABOUT POP UP

Pop Up are a non-profit children's literature agency. We make children's literature festivals in schools across the UK, placing quality contemporary books and their authors at the heart of teaching and learning. We also invest in the next generation of writers and illustrators, especially from identities and backgrounds that are underrepresented in children's publishing. Over 100,000 children and young people have benefitted from our work to date, many in deprived and challenged schools and communities, and many with experience of exclusion, marginalisation and other forms of disadvantage. Through this work we've invested £2million to date in commissioning authors, cultivating talent, buying books and promoting literature. Find out more about us at www.pop-up.org.uk