

# EXCITING WRITING PROJECT

AUTUMN 2012

**Soldier Story by Samuel Booker (Yr4)**

**Travel by Leon Michalak (Yr4)**

**Candy Floss by Iris Collin (Yr4)**

**The Abandoned Mineshaft by Daniel Mason (Yr5)**

St Augustine's School Weymouth

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## The Exciting Writing Project

This involved a small group of six pupils comprising three from Year 4 and three from Year 5. The group featured Henry Price, Jaimee Browne and Daniel Mason from Year 5. From Year 4 there were Leon Michalak, Sam Booker and Iris Collin. A volunteer helper from St Augustine's Parish was facilitator for this small group.

The aim was to produce a collection of short stories. Each session opened with a group discussion. The first discussion centred on their current reading books.

The group agreed that they tended to choose reading books that interested them and that what they read influenced what they wrote. Some group members liked to choose information books and others enjoyed fiction. The group explored the idea of "faction" that tries to combine both.

The group members wanted to give their stories a feeling of reality by bringing in their own experiences or those of their family. The group aimed to focus not just on action but on emotions. Sam felt that tapping into his family's experiences helped him to write a convincing narrative.

Another discussion considered the role of location, characters, events and time in their stories. It was decided that for a short story there could be too many changes of location, too many named characters, too much happening and far too long a time period so that readers and listeners might become confused. Leon used two very contrasting locations in his story, while Iris and Daniel focused on one.

Lastly the group considered whether they should be narrators from outside telling the story or should they be actual characters inside the story.

Each group member then began the task of constructing a storyboard in which each frame moved the story forward like a cartoon. This also helped with the construction of paragraphs in the final write up as each frame inspired a new paragraph.

Like authors everywhere the group members found that they revised their stories both by adding and subtracting detail before submitting the final draft. Daniel and Sam found that typing their work on the computer helped.

Finally they read each other's work and tried to criticise the work constructively; destructive criticism is much easier to do! Their literary criticisms are to be found at the end of this collection of stories.

Each person decided which year group in the school might enjoy listening to their particular story. For such performance they agreed that they would need to speak clearly and tell their stories with expression and enthusiasm. They would need to avoid speaking too quickly. Sam read his story very successfully to his peers in Year 4.

Four out of the six original group members reached the extended publication deadline. These four were grateful for the input of the other two members in earlier discussion sessions.

# soldier story



**By Samuel Booker**

Name: Sam

Battle field

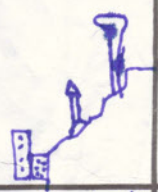


... General Starkwell:  
could possibly been  
the meanest man in  
the world he is always  
telling mace off's usually  
Ethan strikes up for him



E  
Grand's

Pleas c  
strong and pla



**The author comments;**  
"Soldier Story is an action story about two soldiers, Mace and Ethan, who are great friends. They help each other through the army."  
During a battle Ethan gets caught by the Taliban, so Mace must save him".  
Suitable for ages 7-9 (Years 3-4).

ce:  
rare young  
it has just  
army as  
mace.

Ethan:  
Ethan  
has been in the  
army slingshot  
longer than mace  
Ethan helps mace  
get through the army  
without being told off  
Ethan pick's up the  
pic



thans Tami:



## SOLDIER STORY

by Samuel Booker

Mace is a brave young soldier who has just joined the army as an assault man. Luckily for Mace his friend Ethan helps him to get through the ranks, without getting too badly told off by General Stockwell.

General Stockwell is probably the meanest man alive because every second you hear him scream in a soldier's face. If you ask me, I don't really know how he became a General.

Of the many battles that Mace and Ethan were involved with, this one was by far the worst. Things started out quite well... then the General's voice came over the speaker, "Squad 505, the Taliban are invading. Now get out there and stop them".

Mace and Ethan raced out as fast as they could but when they got out to the battlefield their men were being shot by the minute. So quite quickly the squad had to surrender. Mace thought quickly and he decided to play dead. Ethan was about to copy him but he got caught!

So when everyone was gone Mace quickly raced back to base and warned General Stockwell. Stockwell went silent. Ethan was one of his best soldiers.

He collected together all the remaining men and went out in search of Ethan and the others. So that night they got the

tanks and soldiers ready. The tanks were at the bottom of the hill, while the soldiers were hiking up the huge hill stealthily. Then the General gave a signal for the snipers to shoot the infra-red CCTV cameras and then lob grenades at the defensive weapons and jail doors.

They found Ethan and the others and carried Ethan out on a stretcher. As Mace and the General were carrying Ethan back a Taliban sniper was aiming to fire at Mace. As the bullet was fired at him Mace leant to one side and the bullet hit Ethan and killed him. Mace screamed, “No!”

The Taliban rebel who had killed Ethan was killed. Suddenly bullets were flying everywhere as if all hell had broken loose. This time when the smoke had cleared Mace and the General Stockwell had an heroic victory.

### **The author comments;**

“*Soldier Story* is an action story about two soldiers, Mace and Ethan, who are great friends. They help each other through the army.

During a battle Ethan gets caught by the Taliban, so Mace must save him”.

Suitable for ages 7-9 (Years 3-4).





"Travel" by Leon Michalak

name: Leon

The travel



the volcano  
is erupting  
and Jack and  
archie are living



in a hut  
when the volcano  
is erupting.



they docked on  
the island and  
their were loads  
of food and fruit.



they built a  
house and live  
there for a  
little bit.



they go  
shop and now  
~~they~~  
America

The author says:  
On a blisteringly hot day Jack and Archie are in a hut in Hawaii. Suddenly, the nearby volcano erupts.  
They are forced to evacuate the hut and leap into their strong wooden canoe, travelling to a nearby island.  
A series of adventures lead them back to mainland USA. Will they find more adventures there?

Year 4.



they got into their  
wooden canoe  
not that were  
willing to a  
nearby island.



we  
really like  
it there.

## Travel

by Leon Michalak

On a hot blistering afternoon Archie and Jack are living in a musty wooden hut with squeaky floorboards in Hawaii. Jack is an adventurous nineteen year old who has taken up a survival challenge. Archie is one of his best friends who agreed to join him. They had just woken up after sleeping in their put-up beds. Archie said that it was very hot and looked outside the hut. There was a lava flow, so they evacuated the hut!

They sprinted quickly to their wooden, tough canoe and rowed to a nearby island. There were loads of fruit there such as mangoes, bananas, apples and oranges. Jack and Archie decided to build another hut about the same size as the other one.

The next day Jack and Archie made beds out of woven branches. On top of that they put sheep's wool and bedded down for the night. In the middle of the night Jack heard something. He woke up fully and looked out of the window. He saw a wolf and asked himself why there would be a wolf on Hawaii?

When night was ended Jack told Archie about the wolf. They looked out and saw the animal asleep. Terrified, Jack and Archie got the spear, came out of the hut, crept up to the wolf and quietly stabbed him in the back.

They lifted him up and dragged him back to the hut. He was so heavy. "That was hard work", said Jack and Archie nodded in agreement. They made a fire, roasted the wolf and ate the roasted meat. "We can't stay here forever. It's time to go back to mainland USA".

There was a container ship heading that way. When they docked they needed to find somewhere to live. "Look, there's Edward. Hi!", shouted Archie. Edward was another friend who was looking for a house too. They decided to look together. They were successful and bought a

modern house. The house had all modern conveniences, including the internet. They found a pub and went out for three orange drinks.

When they left the pub they looked around the street and could not recognise the way back. “This isn’t the street we live in. Is it?” said Edward. Archie and Jack nodded. They kept walking. “Ha, there it is”, said Jack.

They went inside the house without noticing the cat. Edward heard a voice upstairs. They crept up the staircase up on their tip toes and stood stock still at the top. The noise was in the spare bedroom. They thought up a cunning plan. If they scrambled through one of the air vents they would be able to see into the room. There was someone in there. They opened the vent and pounced violently on the man. They tied him up and called the cops. They came and took the criminal away.

The stray cat they kept and called it Jake. They agreed never to leave a window open again and to live a quiet life with no more adventures.

The author says:

On a blisteringly hot day Jack and Archie are in a hut in Hawaii. Suddenly, the nearby volcano erupts.

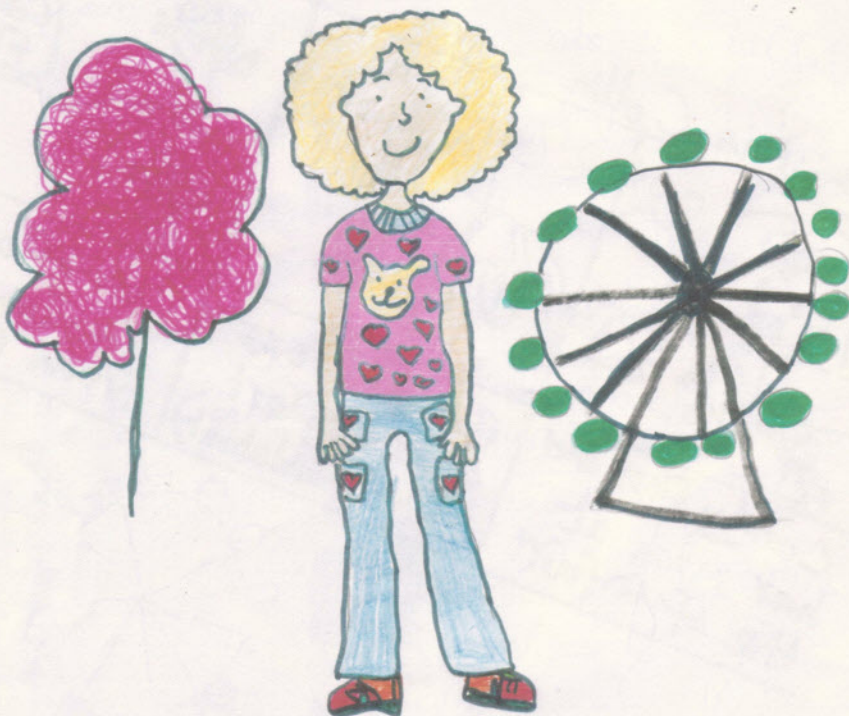
They are forced to evacuate the hut and leap into their strong wooden canoe, travelling to a nearby island.

A series of adventures lead them back to mainland USA . Will they find more adventures there?

Year 4.

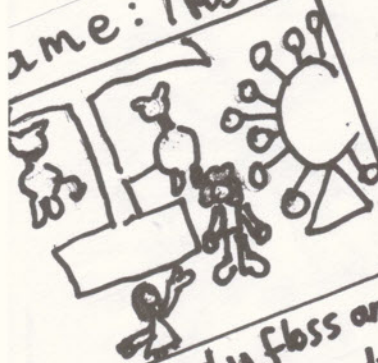


# Candies



By Iris Collin

ame: Iris Collin



Candy Floss and  
her mum at  
the funfair.



Candy Floss  
goes on Perl  
(the roundabout)



Candy Floss  
bought  
from Ros

# Candy Floss

by Iris Collin

One day there was a girl called Flora Barnse but her nickname was Floss. She had blonde fluffy hair which looked just like candy floss.

Her mum asked her if she wanted to go to the fun fair. Floss answered “Really? I love the fair. Yes, please can we go?” So they went to the fair. Floss rode on Pearl the roundabout horse first.

Also at the fair there was a massive wheel and a ghost train, but best of all was a candy floss stall. Floss went mad and so they bought a large bag of candy floss. Rose was the girl at the stall. She was about thirteen, older than Floss who was nine. Rose had blond hair bunches and was very bouncy. She had loads of make up on, but Floss liked her.

Once Floss and her mum had tried the candy floss they went on the ghost train. It was great. There were lots of spiders and in the middle was a creepy man that grabbed at you and said, “Child stew for tea!” in a wheezy voice. Floss screamed. Floss and her mum ran off the ghost train laughing because they were the only ones that were scared!

When they went on the big wheel it went round really fast, too fast. Suddenly it was smoky everywhere and then the big wheel stopped. It was broken and they were stuck at the top. A man had to call the fire brigade. It started to get dark. They were up there for hours. It was scary. They started to think that the fair would abandon them.

Floss got very hungry but she remembered she still had some of the candy floss left. She had a nibble on that. At long last the firemen came and Floss and her mum even got a ride in a helicopter!

When they were down they went to get a burger. Then they were so tired they called the stretch limo and paid £100! From then on Floss has never been on the big wheel and she is now sixteen.

**The author says;**

When a nine year old girl Floss goes to the fair with her mum what is the worst that can happen?

The big wheel has better ideas. Will candy floss be a life-saver or will our heroine actually go into the creepy man's stew?

Reception and Year 1.

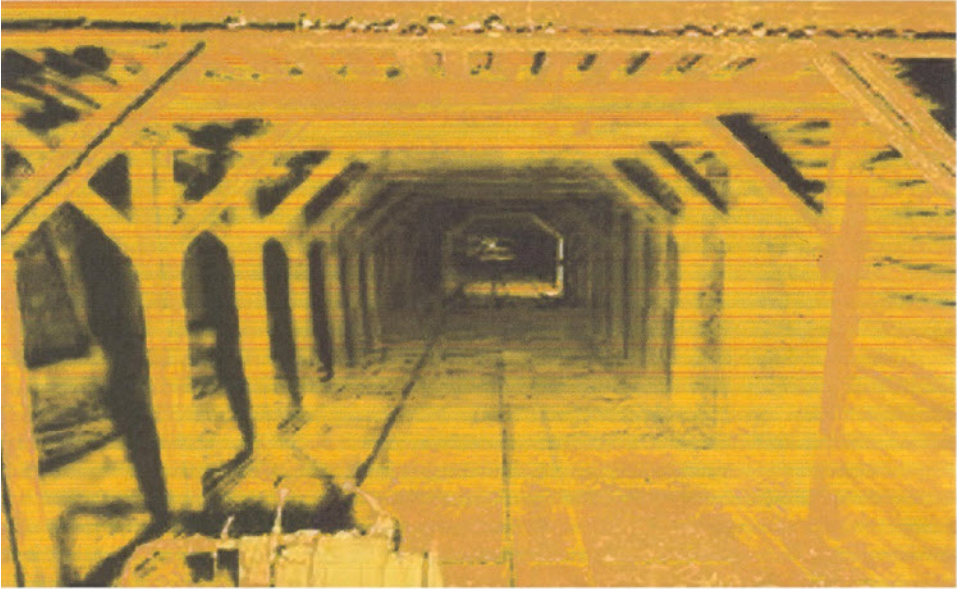


# Candy Gloss

One day there was a girl called  
Flora Barnse<sup>but her nick names is Gloss</sup>, she has blonde fluffy  
hair wich looks like candy gloss! Her  
mum asked her if she wanted to go to  
the ~~far~~ fair. Gloss answered "~~Better~~ Really!!  
The fair yes please can we go!"  
So they went to the fair.



# THE ABANDONED MINESHAFT



*By Daniel Mason*

The abandoned mineshaft is a book about a man called Paul getting chosen to mine a mountain but gets trapped in the mountain.

Will he make it out?  
Will he find the diamonds?  
Will he get the money?

Read the book to find out

The Abandoned Mineshaft  
by Daniel Mason

## Chapter 1

### The letter

*Dear Paul I would like you to know that I have chosen you to mine a field of diamonds. I have discovered it using my most powerful x-ray. If you accept which I know you will, meet me at the office of mining. Please find cheque enclosed worth £100,000 (if signed). This trip will last 5 days (approx).*

*Yours faithfully*

*Harrison Ford owner of mine Inc*

"Joshua!" Paul called. "Joshua, I will be gone for a few days. But don't be sad, you can come and say goodbye.

"Paul finished reassuringly.

"But you can't go; you've never left me just with mum." Joshua said nervously.

"Oh come on Joshua, it's not long and when I return, we'll be a hundred thousand pounds wealthier."

Joshua, being six, couldn't understand this figure; so he just assumed it was a lot.

The next day, they arrived at the company building. They were both impressed by it. It had a helicopter pad, an expensive boat, a fancy Rolls Royce and a bullet train with the longest tracks they'd ever seen. Then Harry Ford came out.

“Hello miners, this is a very important task I have chosen you to perform. A once in a lifetime opportunity some might say.” He continued on. But then came the surprise. “One of you will leave on my jet and enjoy five star treatments while the rest of you go by train.” Paul didn't know what to think, but first he had to say goodbye to Joshua. He looked around however he could not find him. He thought he'd just gone home but not saying goodbye to your dad was a little off.

## Chapter 2

### Too bad

He couldn't delay, he just didn't have time. Paul had been chosen because Harry wanted to cheer him up. Paul hauled his gear up onto the plane. Once the plane had started, he felt pleased with himself for once in a while. Paul soon forgot about his troubles and went to sleep.

When he woke up, they had landed in Africa. He wasn't exactly sure where they were. First they had to meet up with the others, and that wasn't easy. They hiked for around a mile until the other team was in sight. Harry went through the register, checking everyone off. They paced over to the railway. Harry announced "Paul, can you organise everyone so there are two groups?"

Paul, feeling forced acknowledged him. Soon there were two groups of men, when all of a sudden Paul noticed his bag had gotten suspiciously heavy, but decided not to look inside.

He got on the mine cart when instructed to do so and he pulled the lever releasing the cart. He felt the hot air rapidly become cold as the hurtling cart slipped through the mouth of the cave. The cart docked at a little stone platform and Paul stepped off the cart. He pulled another lever which sent the cart whizzing off. Later he saw another person coming down the cave. He said

"Our boss says to start mining."

## Chapter 3

### Let's start mining!

Paul hacked away at the cold, firm rock with his trusty pick. He didn't think it was mining fast enough so he pulled out a jackhammer from the corner. Because everyone thought Paul was very sensible, a few other people pulled one out from the corner.

Unfortunately “ not everyone knew how to use one. One person made a huge dent in the floor but tried to cover it up by standing on it.

Paul had hit the jackpot. The huge caverns with glimmering diamonds, emeralds and countless more types of crystals that make people rich were in front of him. All he had to do was call the others. But consumed by the glittering walls, he wanted to look at it in more detail. He crawled through the jagged, narrow space into vast expanse of tunnels. He decided to tell the others.

He pushed his way through the entrance and shouted “The diamonds are here! “ They all stopped what they were doing and looked over. But Paul heard something,

not far away. It was the unmistakable sound of a jackhammer. But as soon as he saw it, it was too late.

It had gnawed through one of the wooden beams that were holding the cave up. He saw dust fall from the roof. He shrieked "GET IN THE CAVE! THE ROOF IS COLLAPSING!" Paul shot back into the cave and a handful of men fell onto him. They struggled upwards and watched as colossal rocks piled up on the entrance. There was no way out.

## Chapter 4

### We're locked in!

They all got up and brushed the dust off of their arms. The only light they had was the lantern Paul had brought in at the last minute. They instantaneously huddled together to think of how to get out. The most decent plan they came up with was to split up and explore the caves. Then they would get the wood they had in their bags and light it with the lighter. So Paul picked up his bag and started to travel around the cave.

He saw quite a few emeralds thus he quickly chipped them out of the walls and rushed onward. He was

concerned about finding a way out but nevertheless he trusted the guys that were with him so he continued.

His hopes rose up; Paul saw a faint glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. He sprinted to the light.

However his hopefulness sank when it became obvious it was the reflection of the lantern in an emerald. He sat down and silently cried; he was so frustrated he jolted his bag. "OUCH!" something yelped. He opened his bag; something so shocking made everything make sense.

"Hi daddy".

## Chapter 5

### He came too?

"Joshua". He staggered. He was thunderstruck. He was also more determined than ever, if he didn't get out one more person than he thought would die. His son, unaware of the situation, was touching the emerald on the side of the wall. Paul lifted Joshua up, put his bag on and paced back down the path towards the main tunnel. He never stopped running for a second. He



wanted to see if a way had been found in another tunnel. He not only had hopes of getting out, but of becoming rich because of the emeralds.

He arrived at the main tunnel when a person went up to him and said, "Who's this little guy?" Paul didn't reply.

He asked if a way had been found and heard something very interesting, "There is one tunnel that hasn't been fully explored. Promisingly we have found rail tracks halfway through. We need everyone to come." Paul understood the situation and came with them.

They trudged down the hard " wet rock following the rusty tracks. Along the way Paul had found the roof dripping with ice cold water. He and the others made the most of it by filling their water bottles. The track was rising up and twisting and turning, going every single way you could imagine. They felt the air rapidly get hotter, until it was at an unbearable point. And then they saw why.

## Chapter 6

### Seriously?

They all stood there, looking at the sight. The magma bubbled, raised up and sank down. Some parts crackled and exploded while over parts flowed smoothly. "At least the track continues," said a miner.

"Yeah" Joshua replied, oblivious that he was at the edge of the lava pit.

"Is that the cart that is supposed to transport stuff over this rail?" Another miner asked.

"I think it is" Paul responded.

They thrust the cart onto the rails and rested to regain their energy. It wasn't an electric mine cart so it must have been very old. It was a mine cart pusher; they had to push and pull to propel it. Paul went on the first cart. He was so anxious that he started to think if it would hurt if he fell in the lava. He once heard that if you touch lava you fall unconscious because of the heat. If that was the case he hoped it was true, but he wouldn't die. Not today.

Paul lifted Joshua into the mine cart and got onto the pusher. Another man joined him in the pusher while a few other men got in the cart. Everyone was in and they were ready to go.

Gradually they speeded up until it was unbearable. Screeching, sparking, bending rails twisted and turned, propelling the cart at astronomical speeds. A gigantic bump sent them flying into the air and another enormous bump along the track caught them banging into each other. They blacked out.

## Chapter 7

### Are we alive?

The carts slowed and stopped outside. Everyone groaned, except for Joshua. "AGAIN, AGAIN!" He shouted. Paul was hanging on like mad so he was still holding on even when he was unconscious. Both Paul and the other miner fell over and laughed so hard it . woke up the others.

The saw about a dozen helicopters flying overhead. "Harry must have called them." Paul assumed. They

spread out, waving at the helicopters. The helicopters swirled back round and started descending near them.

The miners were saved.

They flew back to England to Harry's company building. Harry was glad they were alive. Harry had sent the helicopters to check on their progress, but in fact the helicopters had saved them. As all humans do, they sought to find the person to blame. Paul was a kind person and he did know who caused it and tried to hide the truth from getting to Harry.

At once Harry gave them one-hundred thousand pounds each. But it would turn out to be a great ending for Paul because he still had the emeralds and diamonds. He had no idea the money the crystals were worth altogether.

## Chapter 8

### The world better prepare, for when I'm a millionaire

He took Harry straight back home and went out. He went to the richest gold and crystals shop and handed them in. He took the money and ran back home. He went to his fiancée and grinned. She asked "What's happened now." in a tired tone. He showed her what he had in his pocket. She so very nearly fainted, and then he showed her what he had in his other pocket. She fainted.

A few minutes later, she woke up. She immediately kissed Paul. She said, "I don't love you for what you've got, I love you for being you." He slipped the ring onto her finger and hugged her. He ran to Joshua, lifted him up and twirled him in the air. Paul shared his riches with the other miners and lived happily ever after.

*The End*



## CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

### SOLDIER STORY.

#### Iris, Daniel and Leon on Sam's story:

"This action story is about the present day conflict in Afghanistan which is in the news. This makes it real.

Sam uses simple sentences very well at a tense part in his story.

There is a good description of the battle and Sam gives a good personality sketch of General Stockwell.

There is one moment in his story that shocks us. It was unexpected".

### TRAVEL.

#### Daniel on Leon's story:

"I like the idea of Leon using two very different settings in his action story.

The story moves quickly and there is good use of alliteration.

I found the wolf episode a bit gruesome but Sam liked it.

At the end we are brought down with a bump, which I found unusual, I learned this could be *bathos*, going quickly from a high to a low.

Leon used very good artwork and even included a game to play.

I rank this story as very good to nearly excellent".

## **CANDY FLOSS.**

### **Leon, Sam and Daniel on Iris's story:**

"This is a retelling of a Jacqueline Wilson story of the same name. Iris has brought in her own ideas too.

When Iris describes her characters she uses adjectives really well. You can begin to see the people.

You get hooked into this story".

## **THE ABANDONED MINESHAFT.**

### **Sam on Daniel's story:**

"This is an action story set in a mine. It is longer than our other stories, so it is almost a short book rather than a short story.

I would have liked the chapter headings to be at the head of a new page each time just like in a real book.

This story is very good because at the beginning it starts with a letter with fancy styled writing, just like a real letter.

Daniel has used different types of sentence openers and the author has used amazing language such as adverbs with verbs and adjectives with nouns".



**Autumn 2012**

