

FIRST STORY **IMPACT REPORT**



2020/21



FOREWORD

Reflecting on a second school year impacted by the pandemic, I feel very proud that First Story continued to provide support and opportunities to young people throughout 2020/21.

With schools opened again, we began the new academic year feeling fairly optimistic. At the same time, we anticipated it may prove challenging for teachers and heads to maintain open school environments, whilst also navigating student bubbles, adjusted timetables and local virus outbreaks; circumstances which ultimately made it near impossible for some schools to work with external providers.

To overcome some of this, we offered a blended version of the Young Writers Programme; combining in-person provision wherever possible, with digital delivery when necessary. Lots of our writers became adept at running live online workshops, and many schools and young people embraced virtual and hybrid ways of working.

Some schools felt strongly that they wanted our writers in the room, working with students face to face. They opted to defer our

programme until next academic year. Consequently, we worked in far fewer schools in 2020/21, compared to First Story's growth trajectory pre-pandemic.

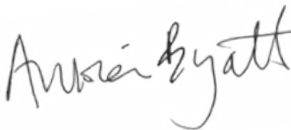
The resilience and creativity that First Story's staff and writers have demonstrated during this year has been impressive. First Story has embraced the potential of digital solutions. For example, our events were reimaged in interesting new formats: in the autumn term, our region-specific Connect events, usually staged at partner universities, translated to online content, in collaboration with the universities of Hull, Huddersfield, Greenwich, and Nottingham Trent; in March, our flagship annual event, the Young Writers Festival, was virtual too, allowing us to book an acclaimed international writer, Angie Thomas, to headline (Angie joined us live from her home in the United States); and for a second year, our summer residential week also took place virtually.

First Story writers have been incredibly committed throughout the pandemic. Their boundless creativity and personal generosity has ensured a consistent high quality experience for our participants, in the face of so much disruption and uncertainty. When we could finally get our writers back into schools, in March, everyone was pleased; not least as writing gave students a chance to make sense of what they have experienced.

The young people we support have really lost out during this pandemic. There is much evidence that low-income and racialised communities have been disproportionately impacted. We are very concerned not only about students' lost learning; wellbeing has been affected too. They have missed vital social contact, as well as the chance to participate in enriching after-school activities.

We developed an ambitious new strategy this year, responding to this new context. *Reach & Impact* launches in 2021/22, taking forward new work piloted this year, like our *Young Ambassadors Programme* and *Think Like a Writer*, teachers' CPD course, alongside a commitment to scale our flagship Young Writers Programme, particularly in the north of England.

We could not achieve all that we do each year, without the support of our committed funders and generous individual donors, as well as our writers, dedicated lead teachers, delivery partners, trustees, staff and volunteers. A huge thank you to everyone. We have all overcome obstacles and challenges this year. We have learnt so much and we are stronger for the future.



Antonia Byatt
Chief Executive Officer

FIRST STORY

A summary of First Story's impact during the academic year ending 30 June 2021. Published December 2021.

TRUSTEES

Ed Baden-Powell (Chair)
Jamie Waldegrave
Aziz Bawany
Aslan Byrne
Sophie Harrison
Sue Horner
Sarah Marshall
Ella White
Bobby Nayyar

Registered charity 112293





WHAT WE DO

Every young person deserves to reap the benefits of a rich creative education. Society benefits too, when we nurture a greater diversity of voices and support young people from under-represented backgrounds to flourish and be heard.

First Story exists because access to high quality cultural education is not distributed equally across the country or in education settings. We work together with teachers, professional writers and others, to practically address this inequality of opportunity.

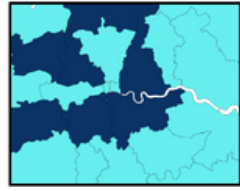
Our mission is to assist young people experiencing disadvantage to advance in life and realise their potential, by providing extracurricular support and enrichment activities that foster creativity, writing ability and talent, whilst developing confidence, skills and cultural capital.

First Story's flagship Young Writers Programme places inspiring professional writers in residence in non-selective secondary schools in low-income areas, where they work intensively over an academic year with a consistent group towards publication of a printed anthology. Regular national competitions and events, plus resources, training and support for teachers, complement our core provision. Participants in a First Story group are encouraged to develop their own unique voices and taught to tell their own stories with confidence and skill. Our growing portfolio of exclusive opportunities for First Story alumni provides a progression pipeline for talent.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

602

YOUNG PEOPLE
took part in our flagship
YOUNG WRITERS
PROGRAMME



WE PUBLISHED

1,277

STORIES &
POEMS IN

25

ANTHOLOGIES

A further

1,000

FIRST STORY WRITERS

DELIVERED MORE THAN

young people benefited from participation in our extended opportunities and school activities, like
ASSEMBLIES, EVENTS, BOOK LAUNCHES & COMPETITIONS

552

HOURS

OF WORKSHOPS

AND WE ORGANISED
SKILLS SHARING

15,000

YOUNG PEOPLE
ENGAGED
WITH OUR
VIRTUAL

1

DAY

FOR OUR

YOUNG WRITERS FESTIVAL

16

TOOK
PART
IN A
WEEK
-LONG
**ALUMNI
SUMMER
RESIDENTIAL**

4

ALUMNI
WERE AWARDED
**RATHBONES
FOLIO
PRIZE**
MENTORSHIPS

51

TEACHERS
TOOK PART
IN OUR FREE

WRITERS

CPD TRAINING

FIRST STORY YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAMME

For many schools, the pandemic made it difficult to host any type of external provision during 2020/21. First Story developed a blended offer – combining in-person provision where possible, with digital delivery when necessary – to help partner schools navigate the challenges. Several schools embraced our virtual or hybrid models. Others chose to wait until they could confidently invite writers back into classrooms, to work face to face with students. By spring term of 2020/21, we finally were able to return to in person workshops at all schools, albeit with some disrupted schedules. Despite the pandemic challenges, our flagship programme ultimately ran in **25 schools** in 2020/21; **36%** of which were in **London**, **36%** in the **East Midlands**, and **28%** in **Yorkshire**.



88%

of participants reported that creative writing is more fun now that they have done First Story

83%

of participants said they feel confident using the new writing skills and techniques they have learned through First Story

64%

of participants said First Story has had a positive impact on how they plan writing in all of their lessons

63%

of participants said that, since doing First Story, they are more likely to try harder when describing or explaining things that feel difficult

83%

of participants said they were happier to discuss things with others who hold different views to their own, since doing First Story

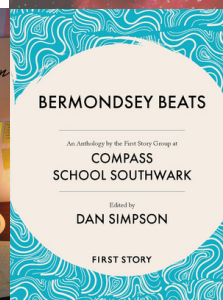
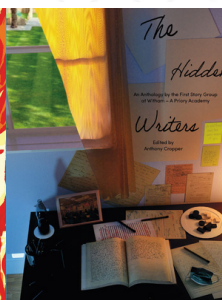
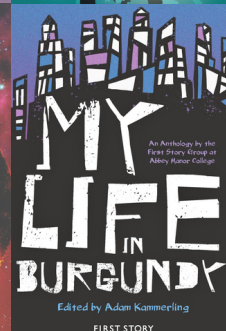
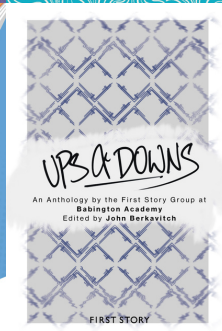
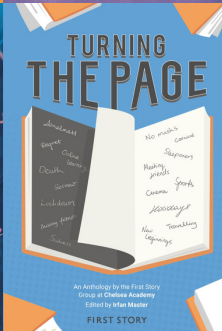
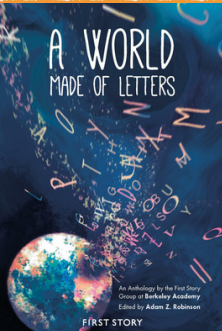
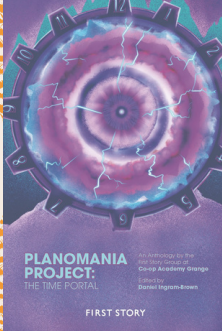
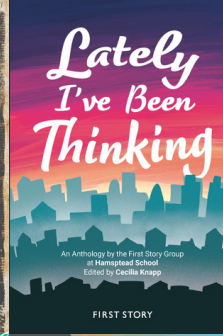
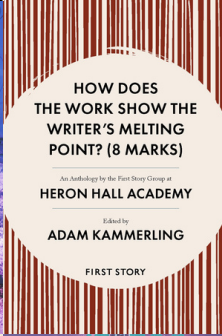
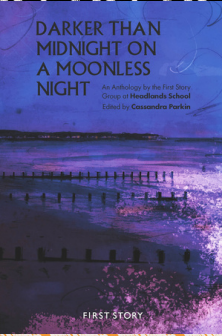
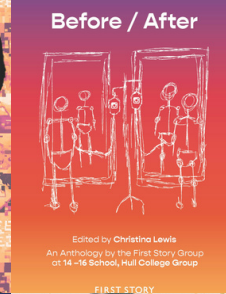
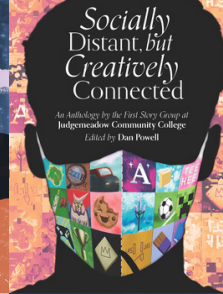
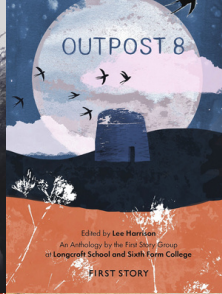
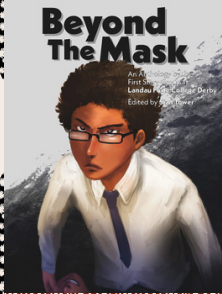




BARAN'S STORY

“ Before First Story I didn't like writing anything, I felt it was something that I couldn't do. I really hated my English lessons because I had to write. When I found out that my class were involved in First Story, I didn't want to do it. I thought it was going to be just like my English lessons. However, I soon realised that it was different – interesting. The workshops allowed me to express my feelings. Being given the freedom to write whatever I wanted made me feel free. I didn't have to think about the rules of writing, techniques, spelling and grammar, and I was always encouraged to write in whatever way felt natural to me. It felt like I found my own voice. Being part of First Story, I have proved to myself that I can write and I can write well. I have found that I have my own unique style which is appreciated by others. One of my poems has even been used as a writing activity on National Writing Day. I now feel confident about my writing skills and being able to speak in front of my class, which is something that I would never have done before. I have come such a long way and I'm proud.

Baran took part in the Young Writers Programme in 2020/21 at Commerce House, an alternative provision school in London. His writing features in the anthology, *Play Our Song!*. After receiving his GCSE results in August, he is now enrolled at the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London.



ANTHOLOGIES

First Story's publishing continued to benefit in 2020/21 from the invaluable support of **Walker Books, Oxford University Press** and **Avon Dataset**. We published **25 anthologies** of new writing by young people. First Story groups have agency throughout the production process; as well as choosing which pieces of their own writing they want to include, students together decide their anthology's title and have input into its cover design.

Live anthology launches proved more difficult to stage during the pandemic; some schools did manage socially distanced in school celebrations; others opted instead for virtual launches, or to wait until the new academic year.

“ Our First Story group identified an anthology title and cover design that epitomises this year and celebrates the importance of creativity in uniting individuals [...] The anthology is the true legacy of this First Story opportunity.

LEAD TEACHER AT JUDGEMEADOW
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LEICESTER



FIRST STORY'S PUBLISHING
IN 2020/21 WAS SUPPORTED BY



EXTENDED OPPORTUNITIES

We offered three national competitions in 2020/21, open to all First Story participating schools: **Six Word Story** in the autumn term, **100 Word Story** in the spring, and a new competition to mark Earth Day in April, **EcoPoetry**. The 100 Word Story was again judged by our partners at **Vintage**, with specially-made postcards (right) for the winner.



In the autumn term, our region-specific **Connect events** took place virtually. These events connect young writers with each other and with local arts and education opportunities where they live. Digital content was produced in collaboration with the **University of Huddersfield, University of Hull, University of Greenwich** and **Nottingham Trent University**, including classroom resources, virtual workshops and interviews with writers, **Testament, Cassandra Parkin, Jasmine Cooray** and **Ioney Smallhorne**.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
VINTAGE

“ I love that the competitions are open to any student at our school. It's a great way to encourage participation in the programme, offers an opportunity to incorporate them into our own inter-house competitions, and allows First Story to become a 'household name' recognised in our school community.

FIRST STORY LEAD TEACHER

FIRST STORY YOUNG WRITERS FESTIVAL | 24 MAR 2021



The **Young Writers Festival** is our flagship annual event, designed to bring together Young Writers Programme participants from all of our regions. We embraced digital delivery in 2020/21, as schools continued to navigate pandemic restrictions. Digital content meant we could reach many more young people than in previous years, with an estimated **15,000 students in 84 schools** accessing the festival.

We could also secure an acclaimed international author to headline, with **Angie Thomas** joining live from her home in the United States, to be interviewed by a Year 10 student from George Green's School in London.

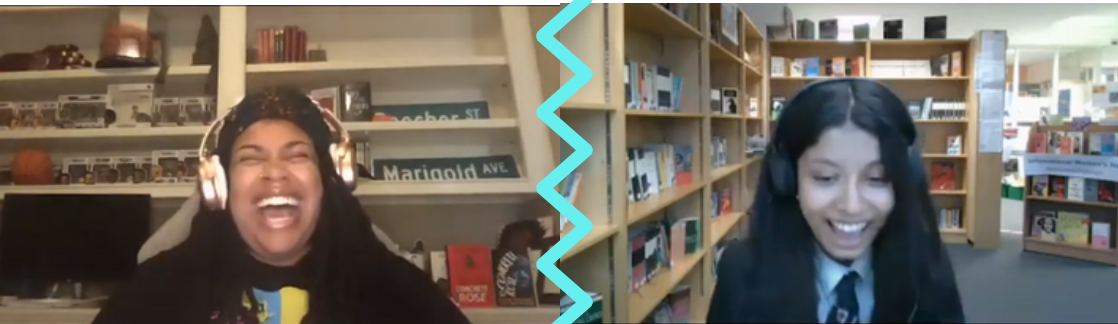
Other popular content included writer and poet **Dean Atta** MC'ing a showcase event, featuring 16 First Story young writers, and **Rachel Seiffert** leading a twilight CPD session for teachers.

“ [It was] an amazing author talk from the fantastic Angie Thomas. [Our] pupils were amazed when [Angie] recited the rap; THUG is one of our #eighteenby18 books all students should read in their time with us. The Young Writers Festival has been fantastic.

TANYA RUSSELL, LEAD TEACHER
AT THE DUKERIES ACADEMY



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



National WRITING Day 2021

In June 2021, we again led a coalition of literacy and arts partners to deliver the fifth **National Writing Day (NWD)**, our annual campaign to promote the pleasure and power of creative writing. With support from our NWD Ambassadors, **Michael Rosen, Kate Clanchy, Karl Nova** and **Alexandra Shepherd**, NWD classroom resources were **downloaded 1,300 times**, reaching an estimated **40,000 students**. The year's call to action activity, **#FillTheBox** – a fun and easy writing exercise involving Post-It notes – was shared online more than **500 times**, with evidence of many more students taking part in classrooms across the country.

NATIONAL WRITING DAY
2021 PART FUNDED BY



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



NATIONAL WRITING DAY PARTNERS



“ First Story has really been fantastic this year. Through what were almost impossible Covid restrictions, we've been able to bring our Writer-in-Residence into lessons in autumn, online as part of remote learning in spring, and finally back onsite. Every step of the way, everyone [at First Story] has been so supportive and understanding of the changing circumstances.

The students who are now producing work for the anthology are so excited to see their work in print. For us, the biggest impact on students is often self-esteem; the real power of championing student voices is often that the students themselves learn to value the stories they have to tell. This year it has been especially wonderful to read the work of students who found lockdown a real challenge, and see that the workshops have given them a space to reflect on their experiences.



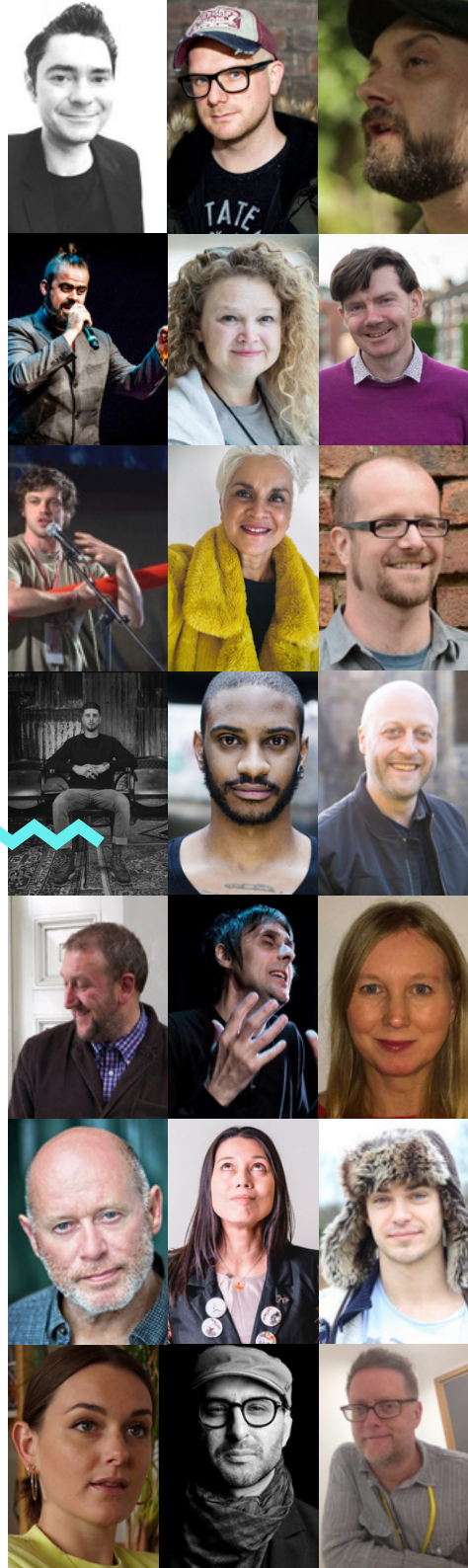
MOLLY DEWHIRST, LEAD TEACHER
AT HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL IN LONDON

OUR WRITERS

We are incredibly proud to work with such a talented, diverse community of professional authors, poets and playwrights. We commissioned **23 writers** to deliver our Young Writers Programme in schools in 2020/21; **15 writers** were commissioned to produce new classroom resources, facilitate our Connect events and lead our summer residential week. We also supported a **Goldsmiths Creative Writing MA student**, who shadowed Francesca Beard, our Writer-in-Residence at Saint Gabriel's College, London. One of the ways we support writers' development is by hosting national skills sharing days, this year attended by **62 writers**. We also hold regular writers' forums to share experiences and learning.

“ My third year as a writer in residence for First Story and my third beautiful anthology. This time with students from Hampstead School. I can't believe we made a book with Year 9 in a global pandemic. The English department at Hampstead are amazing, as are First Story's team.

CECILIA KNAPP
YOUNG PEOPLE'S LAUREATE
FOR LONDON 2020/21



CASE STUDY **MICHELLE BURKE**

“ Participating in First Story's programme has provided me with a deeper understanding of my students as individuals [and] enabled me to experience my students' creativity in a completely different way.

I witnessed first-hand the powerful process that took place over sixteen weeks. It captivated the hardest to reach students, the ones that would refuse to write a sentence, the ones who proclaimed they 'hated English', the ones who existed on the periphery of the class.

The First Story programme has been transformative on all levels. I am so grateful to have had this experience — and even more so that my students were able to experience working with [a professional author] and have their work published. The impact on their sense of self has been life-changing.

My approach to teaching creative writing has changed. I am less traditional in allowing myself and the students the freedom to experiment, exploring a range of writers and different forms of writing, immersing ourselves in different worlds. I noted [our Writer-in-Residence's] introduction to sessions and the different activities he used to capture the attention of the class and I experimented with some of the same activities with my other classes, keen to give them a taste of the First Story experience. It's also sparked an interest for me to develop my practice further to use writing as a therapeutic tool.

Michelle is a teacher at Commerce House in north London, an alternative provision school providing specialised teaching and support for students with complex needs.



CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Consultation with teachers in 2020/21 told us schools would highly value our support to amplify under-represented voices and experiences in the classroom. In response, we commissioned three First Story writers – **Bridget Minamore**, **Ashley Hickson-Lovence** and **Khadijah Ibrahiim** – to produce original resources exploring key themes of Black identity and experience. We shared the resources to support partner schools and other First Story writers to mark **Black History Month**. These BHM materials join a collection of high-quality classroom resources intended to help our teachers and writers explore socio-political themes through creative writing, alongside **LGBT+ History Month**, **International Women's Day** and **Earth Day** resources.

“ I believe history is living memory, with present and past voices that ought to be heard – your voice is part of that.

KHADIJAH IBRAHIIM
FIRST STORY WRITER

FIRST STORY **THINK LIKE A WRITER** CPD FOR TEACHERS

We reshaped our support for teachers during 2020/21, piloting a new **Continuing Professional Development** (CPD) course, *Think Like a Writer*, designed to provide teachers with confidence and strategies to teach creative writing to a high standard, as well as to advocate for more creative writing practice across schools. *Think Like A Writer* will be rolled out nationally in 2021/22, as a four-part course, delivered over a term, as twilight virtual sessions.

Think Like a Writer has been developed and will be delivered by Booker-shortlisted author, **Rachel Seiffert** – one of First Story's most experienced and respected practitioners – supported by acclaimed poet, **Jasmine Cooray**.

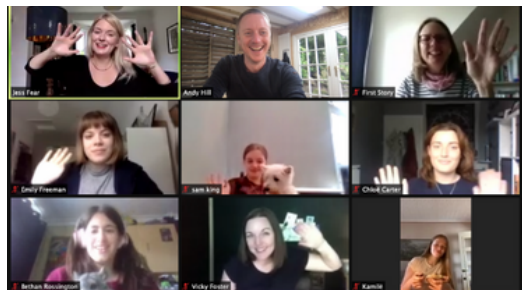


OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALUMNI

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL



Our annual summer residential programme, funded for the last three years by **teamArchie**, enables a group of up to 20 young people who show great potential during the year, to spend a week together to develop their writing craft. 2020/21 was the second year we successfully held the residential virtually. Over five days, 16 young people came together daily online, keen to learn from and be mentored by our three inspiring professional writers, **John Berkavitch, Nik Perring** and **Vicky Foster**. An anthology by the 2020/21 residential group has since been published, for which the group chose the title, *Observant Passengers*.

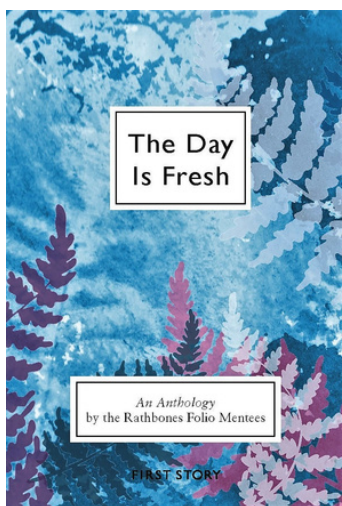


Rathbones Folio Prize

MENTORSHIPS

2020/21 was the fourth year of our exclusive partnership with the **Rathbones Folio Prize**, through which a small number of each year's First Story cohort receive a year of intensive mentoring by an acclaimed Folio Academy writer. The year's mentors were (below, L-R) **Paul Farley, Kathryn Maris, Rachel Long** and **Raymond Antrobus**.





Participants meet regularly with their mentors, to develop their craft on a project of their choice. A virtual showcase event was held in early summer, at which mentees shared their works in progress with an invited audience. We also published an anthology celebrating the first four years of the successful scheme, featuring writing by 16 talented First Story alumni.

“ I've been hoping for a career involving writing for most of my life, and Paul [Farley, my Folio mentor] has absolutely boosted my resolve to achieve that.

FINLEY PARKINSON, MENTEE

FIRST STORY **YOUNG AMBASSADORS** PROGRAMME

phf Paul Hamlyn
Foundation

As part of a multi-year project funded by the **Paul Hamlyn Foundation**, in 2020/21 First Story piloted an exciting new offer for students who complete our flagship Young Writers Programme. In eight partner schools (in East Midlands and Yorkshire), 18 First Story alumni took part in a year-long modular course, designed to develop transferable skills and provide experience to support academic and career progression. The pilot is being evaluated by **Dr Sue Dymoke**, Associate Professor of Education at **Nottingham Trent University's Institute of Education**.

First Story aims to embed in partner schools a lasting culture of creative writing; the **Young Ambassadors Programme** will empower young people to lead creative writing initiatives in their schools and communities, providing them with a framework and toolkit. We are excited to roll out the programme nationally in 2021/22 and continue to evolve our offer in the coming years.



HABIBA'S STORY



Habiba completed First Story's Young Writers Programme in 2013/14 at Carlton Bolling College in Bradford, working with our Writer-in-Residence, Andrew McMillan. She then studied English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Huddersfield, where she was a Student Ambassador. In 2018, Habiba was selected to attend Penguin Random House's *WriteNowLive*. Since graduating, she has held roles at Vintage, Waterstones, and the Bradford Literature Festival. Habiba is the co-founder of Fox and Windmill Books, an independent publishing company for South Asian British writers in the North.

“ I knew that I wanted to become an author and see my work among all the other stories on the shelves. But I just didn't know how to do that. When visiting authors came to our school, I'd ask them “how do you get published?” and they would always just say “you need to find an agent.” It was like a riddle I had to solve myself.

When the opportunity to take part in First Story came around, I was studying English Literature at A-Level with three other students. They told us that our work would be published and I jumped at the chance. It was the first milestone I would reach within the publishing world and – although I didn't know it at the time – would become something I would list as a personal achievement when applying for university, internship and job applications for years to come.

Since my graduation in 2018, I've been lucky enough to work within different roles in the creative sector. First Story had a role to play in each application I've submitted, in every single job and experience since. Let me say, it makes a huge difference. It was one of the reasons I was accepted at Huddersfield University. In fact, I mentioned it a week ago on an application for a mentorship scheme at Penguin Random House, and I was offered a place!



LOOKING AHEAD: OUR STRATEGY



First Story successfully navigated the worst of the pandemic – along the way embracing exciting new digital opportunities – though we also lost at least a year of strategic progress. During 2020/21, we worked to develop an ambitious new strategy, which launches in 2021/22 and which will guide the organisation through to 2025/26.

Our new strategy responds to the urgent need for young people to receive deep and sustained extracurricular support, coming out of the pandemic, which increased the attainment gap and exacerbated inequalities. Post-pandemic, it is not enough just to get back to where we were. We aim to reach many more young people experiencing disadvantage, and with a richer offer, to make a distinct contribution to education and wellbeing recovery.

First Story's new strategy, **Reach and Impact**, aims to scale our flagship programme, so that we reach and benefit many more underserved young people in the coming years, particularly through growth in the north of England. We also aim to have a deeper impact on long-term outcomes for young people, by extending the length of our support and continuing to expand the range of quality progression opportunities and platforms available to our alumni.

We know that to realise these aims, our new strategy must also focus on organisational development. We aim to continually enhance the quality of our offer; we will need more effectively to communicate our impact too. Finally, we aim to adapt our business model, to help ensure future sustainability and support our plans for growth.

OUR DELIVERY PRINCIPLES

Empowering young people with agency and amplifying their voices.

Empowering young people's voices is at the centre of First Story; we want them to be heard in society and to inform what do.

Equality of opportunity and diverse representation.

Inclusion is our driving force. We are committed to equality of access and opportunity. Our people and partners should represent diverse experience.

Collaborative working and partnership building.

We are an agile, open and collaborative organisation. Delivery partners, sharing our values, are essential to the quality of our offer for young people.

High standards and ambition for participants; a commitment to quality.

Our young people deserve the highest standards. We support them to be rigorous in their writing and ambitious. We commit to professional presentation of their work.

REACH & IMPACT STRATEGY 2021-26

WIDER REACH

We will provide greater numbers of underserved young people with fairer access to quality creative learning and enrichment activities and opportunities to develop cultural capital.

- We'll expand our provision in London and East Midlands, and establish a larger north of England region, with a new regional base in **Manchester**.
- We'll develop our provision for AP settings and **PRUs** to reach and benefit the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.
- We'll embrace **digital delivery** where it complements our core offer and allows us to reach, engage and benefit more young people.
- We'll train and support **teachers** to facilitate and continue our work, with a flagship **CPD** course, *Think Like a Writer*.

DEEPER IMPACT

We will positively influence participants' long-term outcomes by providing ongoing support and development opportunities for Young Writers Programme alumni.

- We'll launch a new **Young Ambassadors Programme**, as the heart of our alumni offer, providing a second year of skills development, support, and access to opportunities.
- We'll continue to secure partnerships and collaborations with respected universities, arts organisations, the creative industries and others, growing our **portfolio of quality progression opportunities** open to our alumni and ensuring an accessible talent pipeline.
- We'll establish an **alumni council** so that young people's voices directly inform our provision for their peers.
- We'll develop more platforms to **showcase young writers' work** and amplify their voices.

QUALITY & STORYTELLING

We will ensure the best possible outcomes for young people by becoming a continuously learning and improving organisation that understands and effectively communicates its impact.

- We'll update our Theory of Change model and **evaluation** framework, investing in regular, reliable data collection methods.
- We'll embed a culture of **reflective practice**, evaluating everything we do and ensuring young people's voices are heard and inform decision-making.
- We'll develop and implement a **communications strategy** to tell our own story better, share our impact with stakeholders, and raise awareness and profile.
- We'll recruit high profile public figures as **First Story Ambassadors** to help raise our profile, communicate the value of our work and inspire our young writers.

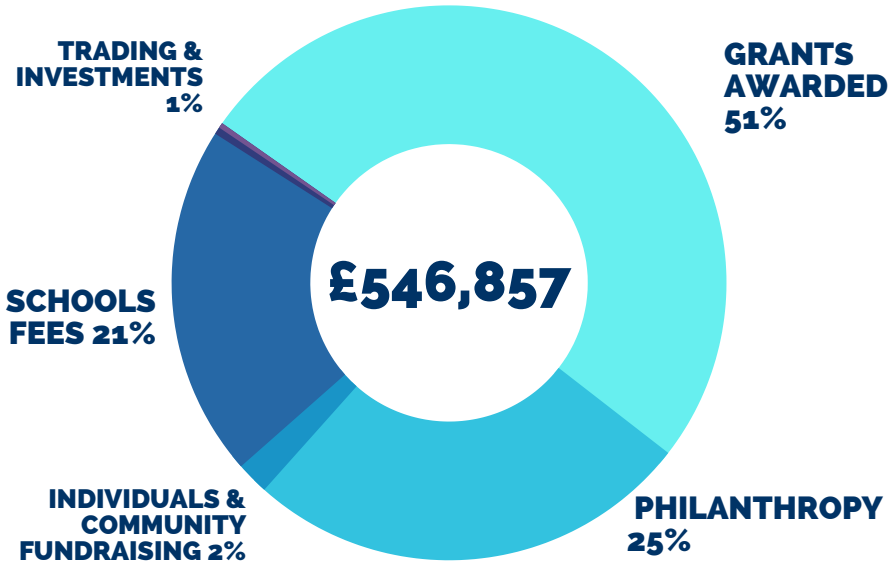
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We will ensure our business model supports our long-term future sustainability, investing in the resources and capabilities to achieve our aims.

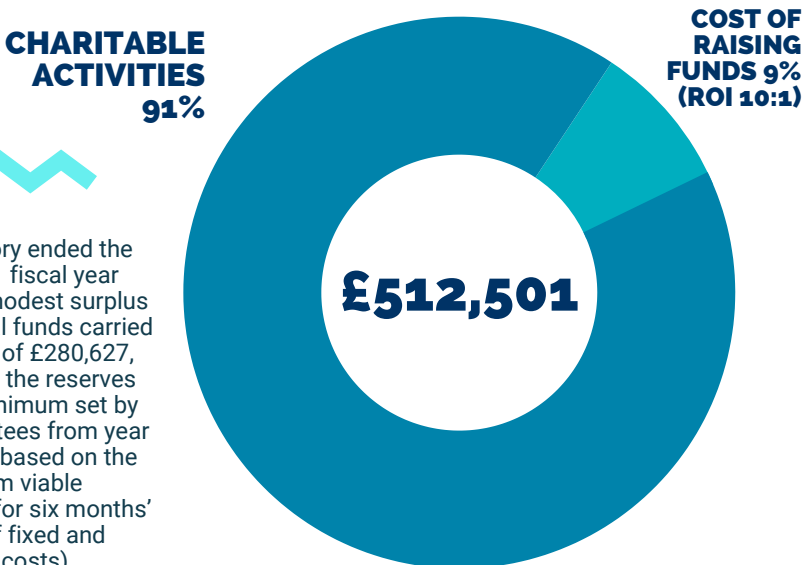
- We'll generate more earned income, by a) continuing incrementally to **increase fees** paid by partner schools, and b) trying to **monetise the value of our IP** i.e. our expertise, resources, materials.
- We'll support sales of our provision via a) a **strengthened value proposition**; b) a year one taster programme option for new schools; and c) investment in our marketing and business development skills.
- We'll **strengthen our fundraising capacity**, continuing to prioritise large multi-year grants, major philanthropic investment and region-specific funders.
- We'll expand and develop a **diverse talent pool of writers**, reflecting the diversity of our participants.

OUR FINANCES

First Story's sources of income for the year ending 30 June 2021:



How we allocated funds:



First Story ended the 2020/21 fiscal year with a modest surplus and total funds carried forward of £280,627, meeting the reserves level minimum set by our trustees from year to year (based on the minimum viable budget for six months' worth of fixed and staffing costs).

THANK YOU

SCHOOLS

LONDON

Abbey Manor College
Berkeley Academy
Chelsea Academy
Cranford Community College
Commerce House HLP
George Green's School
Heron Hall Academy
Hampstead School
Saint Gabriel's College

EAST MIDLANDS

Babington Academy
Haven High Academy
Judgemeadow Community College
Landau Forte College Derby
Nottingham Academy
The Dukeries Academy
The Farnborough Academy
The Priory Witham Academy
The Winstanley School

YORKSHIRE

Appleton Academy
Appleton Academy Primary
Co-op Academy Grange
Hull Trinity House Academy
John Leggott College
Longcroft School & Sixth Form College
Titus Salt School

WRITERS

Adam Kammerling
Adam Robinson
Andy Craven-Griffiths
Andy Graves
Antony Anaxagorou
Anthony Cropper
Ashley Hickson-Lovence
Cecilia Knapp
Daniel Ingram-Brown
Dan Powell
Darragh Martin
Francesca Beard
Irfan Master
Jasmine Cooray
Joe Hakim
Kevin Fegan
Lee Harrison
Nick Toczek
Nik Perring
Owen Craven-Griffiths
Paula Rawsthorne
Rachel Seiffert
Russ Litten
Sian Tower
Sonya Hundal

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Avon Data Set
BBC Teach
Fair Education Alliance
Greenwich University
Hachette UK
Ink@84
Nottingham Trent University
Oxford University Press
Penguin Random House
Goldsmiths, University of London
Rathbones Folio Prize
University of Cambridge
University of Huddersfield
University of Hull
Vintage
Walker Books

NATIONAL WRITING DAY PARTNERS

Arvon Foundation
ALCS
British Library
Centre for Literacy in Primary Education
Forward Arts Foundation
David Higham Associates
Driver Youth Trust
English and Media Centre
Hachette
National Literacy Trust
Penguin Random House

EAST MIDLANDS ADVISORY PANEL

Josephine Guy
Emily Landsborough
Sandeep Mahal
Jon McGregor
Tom Preston
Nicki Shore
Jane Dodge
Sue Dymoke

FUNDERS

Amazon Literary Partnership
ALCS
Arts Council England
BBC Children in Need
The Blue Thread
Didymus
Dulverton Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Goldsmith's Company Charity
Granta Trust
John R Murray Charitable Trust

Man Charitable Trust
London Community Response Fund and Mayor's Young Londoners Fund
Mercers' Company Charity
Network for Social Change
Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Unwin Charitable Trust
Walcot Foundation
Whitaker Charitable Trust

With thanks to all of our individual donors, supporters and volunteers.

PATRON

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

FOUNDERS

William Fiennes
Katie Waldegrave MBE



FIRST STORY

England's leading creative writing charity for young people, empowering students experiencing disadvantage with the skills and confidence to tell their own stories.

Find out more at firststory.org.uk
and follow our story @FirstStory



020 7481 7777
info@firststory.org.uk
44 Webber St, London, SE1 8QW

Registered Charity: 1122939