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7-Year-Old Author Jayce Joyce BCyA Launches City-Wide Summer Writing Competition Honouring Benjamin Zephaniah

Birmingham, UK – Summer 2025

In a powerful tribute to the late poet, activist, and Birmingham native Benjamin Zephaniah, seven-year-old author and literacy advocate Jayce Joyce BCyA proudly announces the launch of “Books From Children to Children” a city-wide summer writing competition for children aged 4 to 10 across Birmingham and The Black Country.

Entirely child-led, the initiative invites young writers - particularly those from underserved communities to create original illustrated stories or poems that reflect their cultures, backgrounds, and lived experiences. Through open submissions, school outreach, and digital engagement, 20 outstanding entries will be selected, professionally edited and illustrated, and published in a vibrant anthology to be launched on World Book Day 2026.

[Sign up for Books From Children To Children Competition here.](#)

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This year's theme, "Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion in Children's Literature," is inspired by Zephaniah's enduring legacy of celebrating identity, community, and belonging. The competition welcomes illustrated short stories or poems that explore themes of heritage, cultural pride and representation encouraging children to share their world through their unique lens. More than just a writing competition, the project serves as a platform for authentic storytelling - a space where children can express themselves, build creative confidence, and celebrate their identities from an early age.

Jayce, a Mensa member with an IQ of 150 and the youngest founder of Jayce's World Children's Publishing, credits Zephaniah as a lifelong role model:

"As a young Black boy growing up in Birmingham, Benjamin has inspired me" says Jayce. "He taught me that our stories matter. Now I want to help other children discover the power in their voices too."

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The initiative has received a heartfelt endorsement from Qian Zephaniah, wife of the late poet:

“Benjamin always said that stories are the soul of a people - the way we heal, resist, and rejoice. He believed every child’s voice, no matter how small, could shake the world if given the chance. That’s why this summer storytelling competition fills my heart with such hope.”

The competition is proudly supported by the National Literacy Trust in Birmingham, Birmingham Libraries, and a number of community organisations working to expand access to literacy and creativity across the region.

National Literacy Trust in Birmingham Manager, Kyle Turakhia said:

“Writing isn’t just a skill – it’s a powerful tool for thinking, communicating, and self-expression. We know that when young people write regularly and enjoy it, it benefits their creativity, confidence, critical thinking, and wellbeing.

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“Worryingly, The National Literacy Trust’s recent research shows that too many children and young people are not writing for pleasure. That’s why competitions like Jayce’s are so important to help change this and inspire creative writing across the city.”

Jayce made literary history at just four years old, and has since authored three published books and read over 1,000 titles. Through his organisation, Jayce’s World of Learning, he has led 31 literacy events reaching more than 3,000 children across the UK and inspiring a new generation of young readers and writers.

In addition to his literary achievements, Jayce has made notable contributions in the philanthropic space. He frequently donates proceeds from the sale of his educational resources to provide school kits for children in both the UK and overseas. His dedication to empowering others has earned him the prestigious British Citizen Youth Award Medal of Honour, among several other accolades for his outstanding service to the community.

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“I believe that if children are given the right tools, they can create a huge impact in their communities,” Jayce affirms.

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BOOKS FROM CHILDREN TO CHILDREN
led by 7 year old Author & Literacy Youth Advocate Jayce Joyce BCyA

14TH JULY 2025 - 25TH AUGUST 2025

THEME
Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion in Storytelling inspired by the legacy of Benjamin Zephaniah

Competition is open for children aged 4-10 living in Birmingham and The Black Country

Enter the Competition

Scan Me

PRIZES INCLUDE:

- Certificate
- Benjamin Zephaniah Book
- Story published in an Anthology
- A personal printed copy of the book
- Featured in First News

Contact:
info@jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk
https://jaycesworld.co.uk/booksfromchildrentochildren/competition

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

National Literacy Trust | Birmingham City Council | Potential Plus UK | Black British BOOK FESTIVAL | mac | First News

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