

Neil Gunn Writing Competition 2016/17: Primary schools section

Highly commended: Matthew Halle, Castletown Primary

Thinking Outside The Box

“Hello . . . hellooo!?” yelled Tom, a talking cardboard box. “Where is everybody?”

Um . . . to tell the truth I have never seen or heard of a talking cardboard box before! And to make it more peculiar it has two googly eyes and the smallest mouth I have ever seen. I can't quite believe my eyes, rubbing them I look again and notice that it doesn't have arms or legs but seems to be hopping about on its corners.

“When will I ever get my chance to deliver a phone?” moaned Tom. “Maybe just maybe I could become an order . . .”

Even I didn't hear him as he trailed off.

“Yes that is what I shall do!” declared Tom.

I couldn't help but watch him as he set off to pack himself. He hopped from aisle to the next aisle looking for the things he needed. Soon it was obvious something was bugging him.

“I have everything I need but my step-ladder!” he sighed.

I realised the trouble was that the step-ladder was 20 feet high on a shelf! Tom already has a solution to this . . . a crane! Amazed, I watched as he hopped over and clambered in. He pushed the button and with a gigantic lurch brought down the ladder. Reaching the door he used his step-ladder to open it.

“Freedom!” he shouted.

I decided to follow this amazing and crazy event as I could not quite believe my eyes. The next few hours were perilous because of cars, birds and water! Eventually he came to his destination; a regular house on a regular street. Yet strangely there was nothing else regular about what I was witnessing. He could not reach the bell but he had his step-ladder!

“Here it goes” murmured Tom.

Watching him climb the step-ladder was incredible, seeing him use the corner of the box to push the bell was crazy. But what came next was also unexpected . . .

Crash!

I saw Tom slam to the floor with such force he blacked out.

I worried, should I go to Tom's aid? What would I do? CPR!! Suddenly the door opened and a man came out. He grabbed Tom and chucked him into a truck. As the man got into the truck, I managed to sneak into the back. I snuggled up beside Tom and he began to drift off to sleep. Suddenly, he was wakened by a loud knocking at the door.

Tom gasped wondering who it could be.

"C . . . c . . . come in!" said Tom nervously . . .

The door rolled open and standing outside was his owners! They reached down and picked him up. The delight on their faces was immense! I looked at Tom for the last time, his delight was obvious. He had fulfilled his destiny; the phone was delivered safely.

487 words