

Are you 8 – 18 years old? Do you love writing? Are you passionate about living in a world free from bullying? Then take part in our writing competition this summer to win books for you and your school

The Anti-bullying Alliance (ABA), Random House Children's Publishers UK (RHCP) and two brilliant young authors are working together to raise awareness of the issue of cyberbullying through a writing competition for children and young people in schools or colleges in England.

The competition has two age categories:

- The **8 – 12 years** group will be judged by young, talented writer/illustrator **Laura Dockrill**, author of *Darcy Burdock*
- Whilst the **13 – 18 years** will have their work appraised by incredible new author **John Lucas**, author of gritty novel *Turf*



"Creative writing is a perfect way to help tackle the root of bullying... Young people can write honestly and openly, using characters and guises to explore and challenge their experience, use animals or superheroes or warriors to express their inner emotions. Emptying their heads and hearts onto an empty page can be daunting but less scary than telling somebody their own story. This creative and cathartic response can be shared from classroom to Facebook, helping and encouraging others ... achieving some special dazzling work, something a young person can be proud of." **Laura Dockrill**

"Bullies are basically unhappy. If they weren't they wouldn't feel the need to make other people's lives miserable. That's a fact. One aspect of writing that I've always loved is the opportunity to take life experiences - good or bad - and turn them into something positive by the very act of writing about them. If you're being bullied, social media gives you the chance to tell people what's happening in ways that never used to be possible. Write about your experiences, share your experiences." **John Lucas**



To take part **write a short story, blog, news article or poem** of no more than **500 words**, that describes your vision of a world where young people have taken control of cyberspace - and got rid of bullying for good.

The winner in each age category will have the **opportunity to select their own collection of books** whilst **50 books will be awarded to their school or college**. In addition, the winner will receive a **visit to their school or college** by Laura Dockrill (8-12 years category) or John Lucas (13-18 years category) who will present the prizes to the winner of each category.

Entries should be sent in via the ABA website www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

The competition closes on **Monday 30th September**.