

Daybreak

The Wanted and Kate Garraway

have teamed up to launch

Daybreak's children's writing competition:



If you know a child aged between 7 - 12 years old
and loves to invent and write stories
- this is the competition for them!



Children's illustrator Lydia Monks has created some amazing original characters; a bear and a bee but needs help to create a story for them - and that's where we need children's help.

The winner will have their story published by Macmillan.

The competition opens on the 4th July 2011 and closes on the 25th July
Watch Daybreak or visit the website at www.itv.com/daybreak for full details

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July 2011

‘WHAT’S THE STORY?’ - DAYBREAK LAUNCHES SEARCH FOR YOUNG AUTHOR

This July, ITV1’s Daybreak is launching a national competition to find budding authors from around the UK. Teaming up with The Gruffalo’s publisher Macmillan Children’s Books, top children’s illustrator Lydia Monks, and chart topping band The Wanted, Daybreak will be giving children a unique chance to create an illustrated book that will be published in 2012.

Launching on 4th July, children aged between 7-12 years will be invited to get creative and write a story of around 500 words. Entries must be received by 25th July.

To inspire children to put pen to paper, Lydia Monks, who has illustrated children’s classics including *What The Ladybird Heard* and *The Princess and The Wizard*, has created a number of original characters to be included within the story. The winning book will be published by Macmillan Children’s Books next year.

Along with judges Lydia and The Wanted, the stories will also be judged by Publishing Director (Illustrated Fiction) Suzanne Carnell from Macmillan Children’s Books, Daybreak’s Kate Garraway, writer Emma Kennedy, and author of the popular children’s book *Horrid Henry*, Francesca Simons.

Lydia Monks said, “I am really excited to be involved in this project! What an amazing opportunity for some lucky girl or boy! Imagine seeing your story illustrated and for sale in a bookshop! How fantastic is that?! I love to illustrate stories that excite me, and that’s what I’d like the winning story to be – exciting! Whether it’s a funny story, or a sad story with a happy ending, it has to be exciting! When I read the story, the pictures have to pop into my head, just like watching a film! Think about what the characters are like. Are they happy or sad, fierce or friendly? Where do they live? In the forest, or in the city? Do they wear clothes and go to work? What little adventure are they going to have together? See – I’m excited already!”

Jay from The Wanted said, “I first started reading because I was a lazy kid, and I realised my mum would shout at me for watching TV for hours, but she’d leave me alone with a book. You hear it all the time but imagination really is limitless, and if kids start reading and writing early, they learn how to form their own ideas and opinions, and my mum agrees that it’s a lot quieter. I could sit and see a dragon shooting flames at viking warriors, and she was none the wiser. The fact that one talented kid will actually get their own ideas to print is something really special and we had to get involved, not to mention it’s going to encourage so many others to pick up a pen and get creative.”

Kate Garraway said, "I loved reading as a kid – getting absorbed in the worlds of war-torn Europe in *The Silver Sword* and the alpine freedom of *Heidi* – imagining their lives outside the pages of the book. Now I read to my children, Darcey loves *Slinky Malinki Catflaps (Hairy Maclary and Friends)* by Lynley Dodd – we've read it hundreds of times! Whenever we read it, she always wants to talk about the characters once the book has been closed. The words are so rich that even before she understood them she was enthralled by their 'song'. This competition is a brilliant chance for a young person to let their imagination run wild, for them to create a book where their world of ideas comes to life, and then to see their book in the bookshops – a real unique opportunity."

***What's The Story*, launches 4th July, Daybreak, ITV1, weekdays, 6-8.30am.**

www.itv.com/daybreak

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