

## Writing competition

With a sprinkle of inspiration, little ideas can grow into big ideas.

READ  
GROW  
Inspire

Write a short story about your best idea ever.

My name's Lily. I've never been big on "friends". I don't have knockout sleepovers every Saturday, and I don't have the hugest friend circle. Which is just fine for me. I have my own friends: Books. I adore books. Fiction, non-fiction, Disney princesses, brave soldiers, poor villagers and luxurious castles. It's almost like I'm not me. I'm just a default avatar waiting for its next skin, every page I turn. One minute I'm Jimmy Jeppson, inventing a robot to distribute and collect students' papers, or Samantha Louise, a jewel thief on the run from the police. I'm anybody I want. Some people say books are far more enjoyable with illustrations. But I enjoy the thrill of visualising my character, tweaking it to match the setting of my fantasies. It just adds onto the surrealness of the escapism whilst reading. Books contain the thoughts we're all too afraid to say aloud. Books are our best friends. They are always in arms reach to distract us from the low points, or to bask in the happiness. Books are a bridge built with words that can never, ever collapse. Books are portals to a variety of other worlds, and show us the deepest depths of how creative our minds really are.