

ONE WORLD

These stories were written by children and young people at Derbyshire Hill Community Centre during a week-long "One World" celebration: October 30th to November 3rd 1989.

The stories all take place in modern-day St. Helens, but they are based on African and Caribbean folk tales, told to the young writers by Levi Tafari and Dave Ward, who then led workshops with them to retell the stories in their new settings.

My brother P.J. went to the shop for Auntie Betty. He got her a loaf and a bottle of milk. When he brought them back he got thirty pence for going to the shop.

I went to the shop for my mum and I didn't get anything.

Our P.J. showed me his thirty pence so I started arguing with our mum.

Then our mum gave me fifty pence.

So our P.J. started arguing with our mum.

Then our mum gave P.J. twenty pence and then we both had the same.

We spent it on toffees.

Mark John Bacan Bullas

Tug O' War

John and Andrew had a tug of war to see who was the strongest. They put a rope across the street and started to pull. All the cars stopped, and the drivers shouted, "Move the rope!"

But John and Andrew kept pulling. Andrew tied his end of the rope round a lamp-post and pulled John into the middle of the road. But John tied his end of the rope onto the back of a lorry.

When the lorry started up, the rope snapped. John and Andrew fell back on the pavement.

"No-one won," said John.

"We both cheated," said Andrew.

Brian Ascroft

Peter and Tim were racing round the block. Peter put on his rain hat, his raincoat and his welly boots.

Tim put on shorts and T-shirt and pumps.

When they came out Peter said, "I'll beat you in these rain clothes."

And Tim said, "I'll beat you in this running kit."

They didn't have a trophy, but Tim's mum said she'd give a toffee to the winner.

They set off round the block. Tim was winning in his running kit. Peter was sweating and falling everywhere in his wellies. Tim started pulling tongues at him.

Half-way round, it started to rain. Tim's running kit got soaking wet, he started shaking. Then Peter ran through the puddles in his welly boots and got to Tim's mum first. She gave him a jar of toffees.

Emma Harding

One Lie Leads To Another

There were once two women and their names were Lily and Milly. They went shopping and they went into a cafe. Lily said, "Would you like to go out on Saturday?". Milly said, "Yes I would like that."

Saturday came and Milly went to the place where she was to meet Lily, but no-one came. She waited for an hour.

Next day Lily phoned Milly and said she was very sorry for ruining the date.

Milly said, "Why did you miss it?" Lily told Milly that she went out with her mum to Blackpool.

Next day, Milly saw Lily's mum and asked her how her day in Blackpool went and Lily's mum didn't know what she was on about. Lily's mum said, "Lily went out with Martin to Liverpool."

Milly phoned Lily when she got home and asked her why she lied. Lily said, "I lied because I forgot about my date with Martin and I tried to phone you but you were not in so I just went out with Martin. I'll tell you what, I will go out on Sunday with you."

Milly said, "NO! I don't want anything to do with you."

Lisa Jackson

An old man lived in a cottage in the woods. He had a chicken for his supper and when he'd finished he put the leftovers in the fridge. During the night a young boy climbed through the window, opened the fridge and stole the chicken.

In the morning the man wanted a chicken leg for his breakfast, but when he opened the fridge the chicken was gone.

That night the old man stayed up, and the boy came back to steal from the fridge again, but the old man had put a padlock on the fridge and while the boy was trying to open it, the old man crept up behind him and caught him.

"You've got one chance left," said the old man, "Bring me another chicken and I won't tell the police."

The boy went off. He was very worried - he didn't want to steal a chicken, he didn't want to shoot a chicken, and nobody would give him a chicken. So he didn't know what to give the old man.

Then he looked in his mother's fridge and found a box of eggs.

That night he took the eggs to the old man.

"This is no good," said the old man, "You took a whole chicken and now you've only brought me six eggs."

"I'm sorry," said the boy, "I couldn't find a chicken so I brought the eggs instead. Now each one of these eggs could grow into a chicken. So instead of just one they've turned into six."

Philip Foster, Paul Billinge, David Winstanley, Carl Foster

Suzy had a cat and a rabbit and a budgie but most of all she wanted a dog. She asked her mummy if she could have a pound a week to save up for a dog.

"Only if you wash up and help me tidy up," said her mummy.

Suzy helped her mummy every day until she'd saved up enough to buy a dog.

She went to the pet shop to buy a Yorkshire terrier and she called her Joanne.

"Now I don't have to wash up anymore but I do have to take her for a walk and feed her," said Suzy.

Karen Meek

Once there was a man called Mark who lived with his sister Charlotte. Charlotte asked Mark to go to the shops for a loaf. When he got there he saw a woman buying chocolate cake. Mark thought he would like one too. So he bought a chocolate cake instead of the bread. When he got home, Charlotte said, "Where's the loaf?" "I got a chocolate cake instead," said Mark. "But you can't make toast with chocolate cake," Charlotte told him.

Sharon Forshaw

One morning Freddie woke up and went to his cupboard in the kitchen to get something to eat. All he found was a very small piece of meat. Freddie got very angry and said in a deep voice, "Somebody's been eating my meat." He put his clothes on and said, "I'll find out who has been eating my meat." Freddie went out to the shops and saw a man selling the same type of meat that he had had in his cupboard. Freddie said to the man, "Can I have my meat back?" The man said, "No! How can you prove it is your meat?" Freddie said, "Because the wrapper round it is the same." Because Freddie was big and strong and the man selling the meat was old, the old man gave Freddie the meat. Freddie took the meat home and cooked it then set it out on the table. Then he went back out to find the old man and ask him round for dinner. When he found him, the old man said yes and he went to live with Freddie and they lived happily ever after.

Emma Harding

Sandra had a new pink coat, so Paula, Tammy and Joanne all got new pink coats too.

Sandra had a new pair of rollerboots so Paula, Tammy and Joanne all got new rollerboots too.

Sandra had a new pink skirt, so Paula, Tammy and Joanne all got new pink skirts too.

Then Sandra skidded on her rollerboots, fell over a piece of glass and broke her arm.

So Paula, Tammy and Joanne all fell over and broke their arms as well!

Julie Rylance

Halloween

Last Halloween I went to this shop and I saw this Halloween suit and I said, "Will you save it for me?" "I will," she said; and I said, "I will come for it on Monday."

On Monday I went with the money and it was gone and I said, "You said you would save it for me," and I said, "Has my friend got it?" and she said, "Yes", and I said, "Is his name John?" and she said, "Yes", and I went out and went to their house and said, "John, can I have that Halloween suit? And I will give you the money." He said, "Yes, because it is too big for me." I gave him the money and I got the suit and he went to get a mask but there were none left and he came back for the suit.

He said, "I want the suit back", and I gave it him back. I went to town next day and I saw another suit in the window and I went in and I said, "Can I have that suit?" But I did not have enough money and I said, "Will you save it for me?". And she said yes, but when I came back with the money, the suit had gone.

Peter John Bacon

Kylie Minogue

I wanted to see Kylie Minogue but I couldn't see her because my mum said she is too far away. I said she is not too far away, she is only in Liverpool. She said, "Only?" I said, "Yes, only." I said, "It is not fair." My mum said, "It is fair."

So I got my friends and we made a plan. We said that we will ask our mums can we go to the baths and when we get the bus we will take the bus to Liverpool.

My big sister said, "Where are you going?" I said, "Mind your own business." She said, "Tell me or I'll hit you." So I told her that we were going to the baths. So she went home for some money but my mum had no more money and my sister was jealous because she had no money.

She tried to catch up with us but the bus went and we were all on the bus enjoying ourselves. When we got there we could not wait so we ran.

Kylie Minogue saw us and shouted to us to come with her, so we ran fast as we could. She took us into this room. We saw her dummy, her jewelry and lots more stuff.

My sister thought of the same plan as me so she borrowed some money from someone next door and she got the bus to Liverpool to meet Kylie Minogue. She came to where Kylie Minogue stayed. Then she had the fright of her life because she saw me. She said, "What are you doing here?" I said, "I have come to see Kylie." She said, "You lied to me." I said, "Well?" and she hit me.

Kylie said to her, "You don't need to hit her." My sister said, "She should not lie to me." "Well you shouldn't hit her, you are years older than her." My sister said, "Tuff, she shouldn't lie to me." Kylie said, "Get out of here now." My sister was really jealous then.

When I got home my mum said, "Where have you been, coming home in a posh car?" I said, "I have been to see Kylie Minogue." My mum said, "Well, why don't you bring her in?" I said, "OK", and I opened the door and told Kylie Minogue to come in. My mum said to Kylie, "Have you got any albums?" and Kylie said, "Yes, why, do you want one?" and my mum said "Yes, please." So Kylie went to her special car and got an album just like that. Everybody was coming to see her but I would not let them go near her, only my best friends. She gave me two albums and a patch for my jeans. We went back into the house and, after Kylie had had a cup of tea, she went home.

Sharon Grogan

There was this family called the Anderson family and they copied off everyone in the street except for the boys.

One day I bought a miniskirt and they bought miniskirts as well. When I went in, they went in.

Then they said, "Catherine, will you come to the disco with us?" I said, "Yes, I will." So I went with them.

And they all wore their miniskirts. I started dancing on my hands at the disco and they did not copy me any more.

Catherine Rylance

The Hairdresser

Once there was a hairdresser and he had lost his memory and when he was cutting his customers' hair he always shaved them bald. After a bit everybody started to like their hair being bald.

Then this old man, about 52, came in the hairdresser's shop and he had a long black coat on. He went in for a mohican but the hairdresser started to laugh. The man said, "I want a mohican now!" So the hairdresser said alright and gave him one.

When he had had his hair done, the man got up and took his coat off. He had black leather pants on and a black leather jacket with all chains and things hanging from it. And guess what, he had a ghetto blaster and he was singing Acieed.

Nicola Morris

There was a young boy whose mother told him to clean his bedroom, but he said, "I'll do it tomorrow."

The next day he still hadn't tidied his room. There were books and clothes all over the floor, and his bed was never made and he never opened the curtains.

The next day he still hadn't tidied up. His bike was still in his bedroom, full of slutch, and there were tyre prints all over the carpet.

The next day he'd lost his favourite Star Wars figure so he tidied away the books and the clothes and blankets. He put his bike back in the shed and opened the curtains; and there was the Star Wars figure, under his bed.

Liam Walker, Peter Kenny

A squeamish girl did not want to go to the hairdresser's to have her hair chopped.

But her mum was mad at her - she was always fighting and pulling other girls' hair - so that was why her mother said she should have it chopped.

Every time her mum tried to take her, she would pretend she was ill, so she would have to go to the doctor, but the doctor always said there was nothing wrong with her.

One day she was really ill, but she put make-up on to make herself look like there was nothing wrong with her. Her mum just left her till she got so ill she had to go into hospital.

They rushed her into hospital for an operation for a brain tumour.

When she woke up she looked in the mirror and saw she had no hair.

Denise Spence, Jane Scarisbrick

A gang of kids met up on the steps of St. Helens town hall. As people went past them they pinched watches, purses and pension books out of their pockets.

When the people got home and found they'd been robbed, they phoned the police.

At first the police could do nothing, but day by day they got more phone calls complaining about robberies in the centre of St. Helens.

Next week the St. Helens Star had a front page story warning everyone to beware of pickpockets in the town centre.

A plain-clothes policewoman had started to keep watch on the town hall steps. The gang of kids was there, all reading the St. Helens Star.

"Look at this," one of the gang said, "Isn't it getting terrible - robberies in the middle of St. Helens. If I caught them, I'd give them a six-month sentence."

"I think they should be hung," said another of the gang.

"I think they should have their hands chopped off," said another.

And another said, "I think they should be smothered in chocolate and beans!"

Then they started picking pockets again. But the plain-clothes policewoman said, "Now I've caught you! You are arrested. You've got a choice - do you want a six-month sentence, or should you be hung, or have your hands chopped off - or be smothered in chocolate and beans?"

"Please, please," they all said, "smother us in chocolate and beans!"

Loreen Norcross, Claire Fairclough