



#### THE HOME PROJECT

This booklet holds a sample of work taken from a series of creative writing workshops run by Ursula Rani Sarma with 10–12 year old students living in the Clanbrassil Street area. The ‘Home’ Project has three strands in total. The first strand is a city- wide postcard campaign featuring the work of these students with pictureworks which will commence on the 3rd of July 2009. The second strand is an installation of words and phrases written by these students on Clanbrassil Street itself also in July 2009. The third strand is this booklet.

Ursula Rani Sarma’s artist residency in the Clanbrassil Street area is part of the Placing Voices–Voicing Places Project which was funded by a Heritage Council of Ireland instar 2008 Grant and administered by University College Dublin, Create–The National Development Agency for Collaborative Arts and Dublin City Council.

#### CONTENTS

4. Darragh Byrne
5. Sam Claffey
6. Sophia Rosley
8. Mauricia Kiese
10. Leni Clarke
12. Luca McVeigh French
13. Jordan Farrell
14. Finn Burke
15. Liam Bowers
16. Ronan Boland
17. Sarah McConnon
18. Mathieu Doogan
20. Magali Mullen
22. Jack Dolan
23. John Wilson
24. Abdi Salem Taher Haji
25. Danny Cirstea
26. Josephine Ryan Murphy
28. Leni Clarke
30. Chelsea Turner

## Darragh Byrne

*'Home is where you feel you belong.'*

I think home is where you feel you belong. The place where you are used to every smell, sound and taste. I also think it's the place where all your favourite possessions are. Home is also where you feel most comfortable, because people use the phrase 'Make yourself at home' when they want you to feel comfortable. Home is a word used to describe a place you were situated for a long time, where you feel everything around you is familiar. Home is the place you like with your family and where you feel happy when you're there.

### **My favourite room**

My favourite room is my bedroom. It's where I sleep, play and keep all my possessions. Also it's where my favourite chair is.

### **Change**

*Change is mysterious and happens when you least expect it.  
It's what makes you grow and wither away  
and turns the coldest night to the warmest day.  
Change can be little from losing a tooth or a hair.  
Or it can be big and can turn into a nightmare.  
Change can be good, change can be bad, it can be anything.  
So when change is near, don't interfere, and let it do its thing.*

## Sam Claffey

*'Home is where I can relax  
and do what I want.'*

Home to me is my house. My home is where I can relax and can do what I want. Everyone has their own place. My Mam sits on the couch with my sister and I sit in the armchair. Every night we can all sit down and watch Scrubs we've seen a million times. My home is a quiet place, it's a musical place, and it's a funny place, whenever it needs to be. The biggest reason though that my house is my home is because my family is there.

### **My favourite room**

My favourite place in my house is my living room. In my living room there are two armchairs and one three-person couch. The reason I like my living room is that it has a comfortable feeling. Also I love to lie on the carpet and watch the TV. The funniest thing that happened to me in that room was when I came down stairs and turned on the lights, went to the couch and sat down. Little did I know that under what I thought was a pile of blankets and clothes was my sister's friend. I was so embarrassed that I just jumped up and said 'oh ee sorry!' and walked out of the room. After a while, I found it funny though I don't know why!

### **Aspirations**

*My hopes and dreams are green and blue.  
They're real to me. Do you have them too?  
A fireman? An Astronaut? Perhaps who knows?  
By day they change. They come and go.  
When I grow up, what will I be?  
One think I know*

## Sophia Rosley

*'Home is more of an idea,  
a concept, than an actual place.'*

Home is a familiar and safe place. Home is where you belong. Home is where your family is. Home is where you feel safe. Home is somewhere you associate with. What home means to me is kind of complicated to explain. What I think the definition of home is – it's more of an idea, a concept, than an actual place. When you're not old enough to have a place of your own, I think home is mostly where you grew up in, or where you spend most of your life. That's what it's like for me. Home is also a familiar place where you can relax, where you feel comfortable and safe. It's a place where you can be yourself, and there are no restrictions except for general rules, chores and manners. I always feel comfortable the moment I have walked a few steps up the hall at the front of my house and closed the door behind me.

### **My favourite room**

It's kind of strange, because my favourite room only comes into effect after my two youngest brothers have gone to bed and it's just my older brother, my parents and me. Lot's of good things happen in my sitting room at around that time. I remember once two of our families previous au pairs came to visit and the lighting in the sitting room was really soft and warm and I wanted to play a game where someone catches you, and whatever body part the touch you on, you then have to catch someone else with that body part. I didn't expect anyone to play, but surprisingly, both the au pairs agreed. It was really funny to see two adults running and hopping around and squeezing between the sofa and the coffee table.

### **Change**

*The homeless cry for it in the streets.  
Spare change, for a change in their life.  
Obama brings it to the White House  
And the people echo his voice:  
Change has come to America!  
The wind witnesses it, passing through summer and winter  
Like light through a window;  
Passing through night and day like a swallow through clouds.  
And more changes are still to come.*

## Mauricia Kiese

*'Home is where I am the queen.'*

Home can be many places. It doesn't have to be where you live, but where you feel happy and comfortable. There are many places where I could feel at home but which aren't my actual home. Like being at a friend's house, I'd feel relaxed knowing that I have my friends company there and it makes me feel at home. Home can also be the place you were born in, even if you don't remember it or just have family there. There can be a sense of tranquillity and comfort because of the family. I really think that sometimes your own home cannot feel like home when you are by yourself. I think every wall and piece of a home is made of all the emotion of everyone in it. Whether you're happy or not, when I'm home it all seems to go away and a wave of comfort washes over me.

### **My favourite room**

The place I'd go to if I was feeling upset or would just like to be alone would be in my room. It's like a world of my own. Where I'm the queen and get to do everything I want where I can make my own decisions on what goes on. I know where everything in my room is; it's hard to not find something because its so small it's about four metres squared. I've got my wardrobe at the end of my bed behind the door a shelf beside the wardrobe and a little shelf beside my bed. I really enjoy sitting in my room and read because it's so peaceful and quiet and I can always be myself.

### **Dreams**

*Through the window to the dreams  
I wish to behold  
To the dreams that will make or break me  
Through the joy, the grief, the loneliness,  
the addiction, the starvations  
The dreams that I'll do anything to have  
Through the window to the dreams  
I wish to behold  
To the dreams that will make me and break me  
Will I take it?  
Yes.  
Make me and break me  
Will I take it?  
Yes.*

## Leni Clarke

*'Home is where the kettle is.'*

### Home

*Home is where the dog is barking  
Greeting you when you walk through the door.  
Home is where the bird is chirping  
Seeking attention even more.  
Home is where the kettle is  
Constantly boiling 6, 7 cups if we need.  
Home is where you can kick back  
And relax watch TV or read.*

### My favourite room

We call it is the music room because it has the piano, 3 guitars, the two violins, and it's where all the records are. It is my favourite room because it is where I go to play the piano, or play guitar. Most of the time I'm going in there to practise my Irish dancing before a Feis, the music room is also where I keep all my medals and trophies. I also keep the fish tank in the music room, it has about 21 fish in it.

They music room is where the visitors always go. When my Auntie and my Uncle and two cousins would come over, my Dad and my Uncle go into the living room and the rest of us go into the music room. It is the most relaxing part of the house, when the dog isn't going mad barking, and that's why I like it.

One of my memories in that room is my birthday. My Dad gave me a little box about as wide as my foot and when I opened it up it was all furry and I realised it was a dog.

### Our Dreams

*The girl that dreamed of being an air hostess  
Then the woman that worked in an office.  
The boy that dreamed of being a police officer  
Then the man that became a social worker.  
The child that did the art,  
The child with the lead role in the play,  
The child that wrote the song,  
The child with the best essay.  
The child with 100% on the Maths test,  
The child that never breaks the rules,  
The child that is good with computers,  
And the child who makes things with jewels.  
We all have our dreams,  
Our ambitions, Our goals, Our hopes, Our desires  
But will we reach them?*

## Luca McVeigh French

*‘Home is where my possessions are.’*

I think home is a place where your family is and a place where you feel safe. My home is where my mum and my sister live and it is where I live, where my possessions are and where I go after school. It’s where I do my homework, where I sleep and where I identify as my home.

### **My bedroom**

My favourite room is my bedroom because it is where all my things are. It’s where I do everything, where I can do what I want and it can look like whatever I want it to look like

### **Change**

*In a forest there lived a bear and a bee.*

*All summer long the bee collected pollen from the flowers  
while the bear lay basking in the grass.*

*At the end of the summer the bear suddenly realised he had nothing to eat.*

*‘I hope that busy little bee will share some of his honey with me’ the bear thought. But the bee was nowhere to be found.*

*It turns out he has died of a stress induced coronary disease.*

*Only when the last lake has dried up  
And the last river has run to a trickle  
That men will really understand  
That you can’t eat money  
And that reciting old proverbs  
Makes you sound like a fool.*

## Jordan Farrell

*‘Home for me is Pakistan.’*

### **Home**

*Home is a place to relax.*

*It is a nice warm house.*

*It is somewhere to go when it’s raining.*

### **My favourite room**

My favourite room would be the sitting room because for some reason I feel like my blood is in that room. When I was ten I was playing in my living room with my friends on my heely’s. I was trying a trick and I missed and smacked my head against the windowsill and had to go to the hospital. It was my first time in an ambulance. When I was in the hospital the doctor told me I had to get stitches but I was very scared because they hurt so much.

### **My House in Pakistan**

The apartment that I’m in now doesn’t really make me feel like I’m home because when I was in my Dad’s country it felt like I was really from that country. It was a big house and it really felt like a home because my Dad’s relations were there. When I was a baby I was there but I don’t remember it much but it came back to me over the years. It always smelled like curry and it was always comfortable and safe and there was always something to keep me occupied. We have five houses there and I would like to live there in Pakistan. Every day my cousins would play with me and my adult relations would give me a peck on my cheek when I woke up. My great granny would give me money.



## Finn Burke

*'Home is familiar,  
where you wouldn't get lost.'*

I would say my home is where my Mum is, which is where I am most of the time. Also home is where my stuff is and where I feel relaxed and comfortable. When somebody asks me where is my home is, I would say near James's hospital. Home is familiar, where you wouldn't get lost, near your school and near people you know. Home is where you get home sick for, even when your holiday was great. Home is where you are looked after. When I think of home I think of my mom and my cat and all the pets I had.

### My sitting room

My favourite room in my home is the sitting room because it's the first room I walk into when I walk through the front door. The sitting room is cosy, warm and has my Buddha bag in it. A funny thing that happened in that room one night when I was sitting on the couch. My black cat was curled up beside me and then my mum walked in and thinking that the cat was out black cushion she sat on him and my cat looked at me angrily and bit my mom. She jumped up and my cat hissed at her and ran away, my Mum got such fright.

### Change

*There once was a caterpillar all spotted and green,  
He was coloured like that so as not to be seen,  
'I'll stay like this for the rest of my life'  
but he changed to a butterfly and got him a wife.*

*There once was a tadpole all slimy and black  
Who lived with his brothers in the pond at the back  
He soon grew legs and was hopping about  
He didn't like it much but that was that.*

## Liam Bowers

*'I always feel safe at home.'*

I think home is the place where you always feel welcome and safe. Sometimes when I think of home I think of duck because my Mum always cooks it. Home is a place where you can come back from a hard day at work or school and sit down and relax. I have moved house a couple of times and they all felt the same to me. My favourite home is the home I have got now, because I can go out and play football is on open field, unlike my old house where there was no fields. I always feel safe at home no matter what happens.

### My Bedroom

My favourite memory of my bedroom is when I had to put a bookcase in my room. I had to do it myself because the bookcase was really big and heavy so I tried to pick it up but it fell on me and I was stuck under it for two hours.



## Ronan Boland

*'Home is a place  
where you feel comfortable.'*

I don't think home is where your family is I think home is a place where you feel comfortable. I don't think home is where your family is because most of my family live in Leitrim or the outskirts of Dublin. In my home I am always comfortable because I know where everything is. I always sit in the same place on the corner of the couch in front of the heater.

I think my home is the place I always want to be, although when you stay in a house for too long without going out you start to take it for granted and it becomes nothing more than a building. That's why you should never spend too long in my house.

### Desire

*The disappointment of not having it*

*The joy of getting it*

*The anticipation, the dread,*

*The anger, the sadness.*

*There are all the things you would feel*

*When facing desire.*

*If you get what you desire.*

*If you get what you desire.*

*You find out its not what you want,*

*Disappointment.*

*When you don't get what you want,*

*Sadness. These are all emotions you get when dealing*

*With desire. It's a dangerous thing desire*

*Some hope big, Some hope small.*

*But if you don't dream big,*

*You wont win big.*

## Sarah McConnon

*'Home is respecting  
each other and getting along.'*

Home is living in a happy home in a nice community. Home is respecting each other and getting along. In my house there is a certain smell and we all have our own seat at the table. Home to me is being safe and comfortable, I think every home anyone who lives there should have his or her own say. Home is important to me because it's my home and I'm going to be living there for the rest of my childhood years. When you're in school sometimes just thinking everything is going wrong and it's the worst day but you always have a nice family and a home to go to and that's why home is important.

### My Bedroom

My bedroom is my favourite room because I feel very comfortable in it and the colour is nice and relaxing. In my bedroom I have my bed and my desk and chair so I can do my homework. I also have a night table beside my bed. One half of my bedroom is a nice light lime green and the other three walls are cream. I have a nice white bed from IKEA and you can pull out another bed from beneath. My bedroom is quite small but different shapes of mirrors on one-wall makes it look quite big.

## Mathieu Doogan

*'Home has no limit.'*

Home is a place without discomfort and without worries. Where you can just be yourself and do what you want without hesitation. Where judgement is limited to manners and not to what is popular. Home is a place of privacy where you can sing, dance or do both without criticism. People say you can just have one home but that is the joy of it, it has no limit. No matter if it is a mansion or a hut it can be made into a home. No amount of money can buy a home.

### **My garden**

My favourite place in my house is my garden. It's a big garden but it has no grass. It has pebbles, which make a crunching noise that sounds to me like a hundred voices welcoming me to the garden. It's the place where I go out to think of a solution.

One time I kicked my ball over the wall that separates me from my neighbours. It's a small wall so I hopped over it to retrieve the ball. On the way back my t-shirt ripped. It was funny because it ripped in the exact spot where my belly button was and it was the exact same size! I had no more clean clothes so in school everyone saw my belly button.

### **Change**

Most people know what they've done and what they're doing. Many people would like to think that they know what they will do. Change can make things unclear, like a fog descending in a forest, change brings the unknown. When it comes, it makes recent events seem like distant memories. But if you embrace change, the most of the fog will be lifted and you can relax and enjoy the forest of change.

### **Dream**

*A dream is a dangerous thing.  
The bigger the dream the bigger the disappointment.  
They bring tears both happy and sad.  
Dreams and fantasies seem perfect things.  
But if one person wins a hundred lose.  
A dream is a dangerous thing.*

## Magali Mullen

*'I know I'm home when I hear my dad's van pulling up outside.'*

Home to me is where your family are and where you feel comfortable and where you feel safe. I especially feel at home when I know where everything is and I don't feel like it is a holiday. I know I'm home when I hear my dad's van pulling up outside. My dad's van has a diesel engine and has a rattling sound when it's coming to a stop. When I am in my bed and I head it I automatically know it's my dad and I feel safe and secure. I would never associate home with the countryside. It's strange, I'm so used to the noise of the city when I'm in the country it's so quiet it just doesn't seem or feel right. It wouldn't feel like home to me.

### **My Living Room**

I love my living room because it's very cosy and it's where I go after a long day at school and I would sit in the same place and relax. I sit in my dad's armchair (only when he is not sitting there of course), it's by the radiator and it's really soft. There's always the matching footstool in front of it so I can relax and watch TV. I have fun with my brothers and my sister and do my homework on the coffee table because it's always warm in the living room. My favourite memory is getting the Christmas tree and putting it up and decorating it. My Christmas tree is always very high and is placed in the corner of the living room.

### **Change**

*Walking in the door on the first day.  
So many unfamiliar faces,  
Not knowing where to go or what to do.  
People walk past you,  
But its like time has stopped for you.  
People bang into you,  
But you don't notice.  
This dramatic change is affecting you  
In more ways than one.  
But you get on with it.  
And hope you'll get used to change.*

## Jack Dolan

*'Home is not an object  
or place, its more of a feeling.'*

For me home is not an object or place, its more of a feeling. You feel like you're welcome and that you belong there. IT is the kind of place you can be yourself and not care what other people's opinions are. Home is where your family is. Everything from the smell of cooking to your seat and bed. When I'm at home I have that safe feeling. And even some times I long for my home. You can re charge your batteries (you and your phone). Your home seems to be where you relax more than other places. It's as if it is easier there. You have good times and bad times. There's a TV add that I agree with, it says 'Home is where you make it'.

### My sitting room

My sitting room is most likely my favourite room in my house. I like it because it is cosy and has a good atmosphere. If you walk through the front door there is a chair and a couch, behind that is a press and book shelves, to your left is the main couch and beyond that a book shelf and CD players. Towards the far wall there is a fireplace dividing a bookshelf and a press. To the far left is a TV. My friend came over and put a double-sided sticky thing on a table tennis bat and stuck it to the wall. It was stupid of him and left a mark.

### Changes

*The land of eternal darkness fades slowly into the land of the blossoming sun. The day breaks leaving the cold, the ice, the darkness, all to the memory. The forest turns to roads.*

*The buildings change to apartments.*

*The boy slowly develops into a man,*

*The cycle never ends.*

*The man that was the boy experienced the changes*

*But knows not of the new opportunities.*

## John Wilson

*'Home sweet home.'*

Home is a place where you feel safe and comfortable. Home is my home sweet home. Me and my family all live there and we have a lot of friends. Our sofa is a seven seater, it's in the shape of an L.

## Abdi Salem Taher Haji

*'Home is where you stay.'*

I think that home is the place where you live with your family.  
It's where you stay, where you can do whatever you want where you  
play with your brother and sister. When I am relaxing I play my Xbox  
and play station 3.

### **Interview with my Father.**

Home is the place I live. This house is my favourite because it is the  
most beautiful one I have ever lived in. I like the sitting room because  
I sit there with my family. I used to live in a small village in Somalia.  
I like living near my son's school. Home is one place because I only  
have one.

### **Change**

*Everything changes.  
Even the place you lived before you moved,  
Has changed when you go back to it.  
It changes every day in this world.*

*Be careful,  
Changes are coming.*

*Be careful,  
Changes are coming.*

## Danny Cirstea

*'We will always have our memories.'*

### **Changes**

*All night I was looking at the stars,  
Wondering what will change  
Once my friend moves away.  
I have known him since I was five  
And he is going away forever.  
There are a few days left with him,  
And the years we were friends will end,  
But we will always have our memories together  
When we were small and big.*

*Now I have to say goodbye  
For the last time before he moves away  
I said good-bye and I gave him a hug  
And now he is gone and not coming back.  
But I still have the album he left me full of so many years.*

## Josephine Ryan Murphy

*'Home is where you feel you belong.'*

Home is where you feel you belong. When I think of home I think of a place where you feel safe and wanted or where some things never change. I picture myself lying in bed with a good book and remember how no matter how many times I ask my Mum not to put butter in my cheese sandwiches she always does. Or how my Dad can always find a way to tease me, but I'll still always know he's joking, and no matter how much I've always wanted a dog I know I'll probably have to wait until I have my own house. Or when I have my shower I'll have to wait for the hot water or hear up while I think how nice my hot shower will be but when I get in its not hot enough and the shower isn't strong enough but I still prefer it to anyone else's.

### **My bedroom**

My favourite room is my bedroom, because it is the only room I can have to myself whenever I want. I love lying on my bed reading, listening to music, or sleeping after a long day. It is always warm and comfortable. Whenever I'm away the things I miss most are my bed and my books. I have loads of good memories there from when friends came over. I have moved house many times but the room I have now is my favourite.

### **Dreams**

*She had always loved to read  
To lie on her bed and feel as if  
she was really there  
Sometimes she just wanted to  
see what it was like to be  
Her favourite characters  
She would wish she could  
live as them even if it was just  
for a while  
For years whenever anyone  
asked her what she wanted to be  
She never knew  
But now she did  
She guessed the next best  
thing would be to become an actress  
Soon she had her mind set on it,  
it was all she wanted to be  
It was her dream.  
be. It was her dream.*

## Leni Clarke

*'Home is where the kettle is.'*

### Home

*Home is where the dog is barking  
Greeting you when you walk through the door.  
Home is where the bird is chirping  
Seeking attention even more.  
Home is where the kettle is  
Constantly boiling 6, 7 cups if we need.  
Home is where you can kick back  
And relax watch TV or read.*

### Music Room

We call it is the music room because it has the piano, 3 guitars, the two violins, and it's where all the records are. It is my favourite room because it is where I go to play the piano, or play guitar. Most of the time I'm going in there to practise my Irish dancing before a Feis, the music room is also where I keep all my medals and trophies. I also keep the fish tank in the music room, it has about 21 fish in it.

They music room is where the visitors always go. When my Auntie and my Uncle and two cousins would come over, my Dad and my Uncle go into the living room and the rest of us go into the music room. It is the most relaxing part of the house, when the dog isn't going mad barking, and that's why I like it.

One of my memories in that room is my birthday. My Dad gave me a little box about as wide as my foot and when I opened it up it was all furry and I realised it was a dog.

### Our Dreams

*The girl that dreamed of being an air hostess  
Then the woman that worked in an office.  
The boy that dreamed of being a police officer  
Then the man that became a social worker.  
The child that did the art,  
The child with the lead role in the play,  
The child that wrote the song,  
The child with the best essay.  
The child with 100% on the Maths test,  
The child that never breaks the rules,  
The child that is good with computers,  
And the child who makes things with jewels.  
We all have our dreams,  
Our ambitions, Our goals, Our hopes, Our desires  
But will we reach them?*



## Chelsea Turner

*‘What makes me feel really at home is seeing my Mum, Dad and brother.’*

Everyday when I come home from school I see my cat and she meows at me to rub her. My house has a smell of window cleaner and so it smells clean and I like that. Most children have a special nice place to sit down on or even a smell of a pet but what makes me feel really at home is seeing my Mum, Dad and brother.

### **Changes**

*Changes, changes everywhere,  
In front of us,  
Beside us,  
Behind us,  
Beneath us,  
They follow us.*

*Changes are everywhere.*

*Changes follow us,  
Stalk us,  
Watch us when we're sleeping,  
Corrupt us,  
Devastate us,  
Take over,  
Fall on us,  
Be careful,  
Changes are coming.*

### DEDICATION

Special thanks to Fintan Walsh and to all at the Griffith Barracks Multi Denominational School.



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