Geography and Story Competition

The Challenge

We'd like you to write a story about somewhere important to you - it can be fact or fiction, set at any time in the past, present or future. Maybe your parents or grandparents have told you about what your local area was like when they were young. How have things changed? Can you imagine what it might have been like in your neighbourhood 25, 50 or even 100 years ago? What do you think your area will look like in the future? You could write a story about somewhere you've been on holiday, or a distant place you would like to visit... The decision is yours! We'll be looking for creative and exciting stories which bring places to life and bonus points will be awarded for including photographs or drawings.

Age Groups

There are three age categories to choose from:

- **Primary (5-7)** write up to 200 words
- **Primary (8-11)** write up to 500 words
- **Secondary (11-16)** write up to 750 words

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded for the best piece in each of the three age categories:

- **5-7** - *Earthly Treasure* (Random House) and *Dear Greenpeace* (Walker Books)
- **8-11** - *Earthly Treasure* (Random House) and *Cairo Jim and the Chaos from Crete* (Walker Books)
- **11-16** - *Ostrich Boys* (Random House) and *Under the Persimmon Tree* (Walker Books)

There will also be a special prize for the class teacher for each age category of a year’s subscription to *Primary Geographer* (primary) or *Teaching Geography* (secondary)!

Winners will be notified in November and the best entries will be published in *GA Magazine* Spring 2009 and on the GA website.

Entry

Entries must be received by **Monday 3 November 2008**. Don't forget to include your name, age, school and the name of the place you are writing about.

Send your entries to:

Anne Greaves
Website Manager
The Geographical Association
160 Solly Street
Sheffield
S1 4BF

Or via email: agreaves@geography.org.uk

Good luck!

http://www.geography.org.uk/resources/yearofreading/
Competition Prizes – Further Information

**Earthly Treasure**  
Jennie Maizels and Kate Petty  
Random House

A fascinating and interactive guide to the Earth’s treasures, with superb illustrations and pop-up wizardry. Children (and adults) are always amazed to discover just how many of the things we use have been taken from the ground beneath our feet, from the building materials of our homes, to the fuels that we burn for energy as well as the chalk, talc and salt that we use every day - and all this before we even go into the minerals from the soil that appear in our vegetables and keep us healthy. Last but not least are the fabulous gems and precious metals that make beautiful jewellery.

Discover how minerals were formed, lift the flaps to find out what all sorts of everyday things are made of and open a treasure chest to reveal a spectacular pop-up of glittering gems!

Eden Project Children's Books • Previous ISBN: 1905811020  
Publication date: 04/09/2008 • 12 pages • 230 x 230mm • EAN: 9781905811021

**Ostrich Boys**  
Keith Gray  
Random House

Kenny, Sim and Blake are about to embark on a remarkable journey. Stealing the urn that contains the ashes of their best friend Ross, they set out to travel 261 miles from Cleethorpes on the English east coast to the tiny hamlet of Ross in southern Scotland.

After a depressing and dispiriting funeral they feel that taking Ross to Ross will be a fitting memorial for a fifteen-year-old boy who changed all their lives through his friendship. Little do they realise just how much Ross can still affect life for them even though he's dead.

Definitions • Previous ISBN: 0099456575  
Publication date: 03/07/2008 • 368 pages • B format • EAN: 9780099456575

**Dear Greenpeace**  
Simon James  
Walker Books


Worried that the whale living in her pond is unhappy, Emily writes to Greenpeace, who, though offering the best of advice, insist that it is impossible for a whale to live in a pond. Undeterred, Emily continues to seek the best course of action for her beloved whale, finally setting him free.

Paperback • ISBN: 9781406308488  
Publication date: 07/07/2008 • 32 pages • 240 x 240 mm
Cairo Jim and the Chaos from Crete
Geoffrey McSkimming
Walker Books

Action! Adventure! Archaeology! A ninth adventure for Cairo Jim.

At the ruins of the ancient Palace of Knossos in Crete, strange toxic gases are forcing visitors to abandon the site. Where are these foul-smelling emissions coming from and what mythical secret lies beneath the ruins? Only one man can solve this ancient mystery of history – and Cairo Jim has a gas mask!

Paperback • ISBN: 9781406310467
Publication date: 04/08/2008 • 208 pages • 198 x 129 mm

Under the Persimmon Tree
Suzanne Fisher Staples
Walker Books

An outstanding novel exploring the relationship between a young American woman and a refugee girl.

Northern Afghanistan, 2001. When the Taliban takes her brother and father to be soldiers and the bombing of her tiny village kills her mother and baby brother, Najmah makes a dangerous journey over the mountains to Pakistan. Here she meets Elaine, an American woman waiting for her doctor husband to return from the front. Najmah joins Elaine's refugee school under the persimmon tree, until, sure that both their families are dead, Elaine tries to persuade her to go to America. But when Najmah's brother arrives at the school, still alive, she bravely decides to return with him to the village of their birth.

Paperback • ISBN: 9780744555974
Publication date: 06/02/2006 • 304 pages • 198 x 129 mm

Website: www.randomhouse.co.uk
Website: www.walker.co.uk

http://www.geography.org.uk/journals

http://www.geography.org.uk/resources/yearofreading/