



#MyBirminghamStory

Send us your Birmingham story by March 22nd 2024.

Either submit this worksheet, or use it as a script for a short video. Go to literacytrust.org.uk/birmingham to find out more.

Answer the questions to construct your story

Support

1. Background

Who are you, and what is your connection to Birmingham?

My name is Frankie, and I am a final year student at the University of Birmingham. I was drawn to the city because of its vibrancy and colour – the city is such an exciting place and no two days are remotely the same! I remember coming to visit for the first time when I was choosing universities, and almost immediately being sure that this was the place for me. I had arrived at night in a car. The city lights twinkled around me as we darted in and out of tunnels escorting us underneath the streets. It just felt like the right place to explore and learn independence in.

You could talk about:

- Growing up in Birmingham
- Moving to Birmingham
- Family or friends who live in Birmingham
- Visiting the city...

2. A specific place

What is one place in Birmingham that holds particular meaning to you? Why?

As a student at UoB it would be difficult for me to not say the campus. The beautiful buildings, the greenery, the melting pot of individuals...there is no place quite like it. And how could I forget Old Joe! This special clock tower is loved by both students and non-students alike. My peers all personify him as a living member of campus! Seeing Old Joe in the distance wherever you go in the surrounding areas brings a sense of stability to you, especially in an unfamiliar city. You know that wherever you go, Old Joe is there to watch over you from afar. You can see him all the way from Lickey Hills!

You could talk about:

- An **area** of Birmingham, like Nechells, New St...
- An **attraction** in Birmingham like Aston Hall, the Library...
- A **place of family importance** like your home or a religious site...

3. An important personal event

Tell the story of one moment that shows why Birmingham, or your specific place from question (2), is important to you.

The Christmas Market in the city centre is something that I will undoubtedly be back to visit in years to come – the atmosphere there is like no other! The streets are lit with a gentle orange glow, as couples clasp warm mugs of mulled wine, children's faces light up as they gawp at the sweets stands, and families meander the streets wrapped head to toe in winter gear. You don't have to celebrate Christmas to appreciate how beautiful it is. You also don't have to spend a penny in order to enjoy it! The live music is by far the highlight of the market. Crowds gather underneath singers on balconies above market stalls and people dance, sing and laugh together – sharing the festive spirit.

You could talk about:

- **Family moments** like a great party, the birth of a child...
- **Community events** like sports games, local festivals...
- **Natural moments** like a snow storm, a rainy Tuesday...
- **Moments of change** like when you learnt something about how life works

4. Reflections on Birmingham

Why did you choose to share a story? Why is Birmingham important to you?

My final year of university is rapidly coming to an end, which means nostalgia is at an all-time high! I want to share my experience because this is the city where I have grown into my own skin, become an adult, and formed my own identity. Despite being an outsider, I feel great connection to this vibrant place. I will admit that I did not expect to feel a bond with a location so far from home – but it really has become my second home. Because of this, as I prepare to bid farewell, I realise that it has become more than just a temporary stop on my academic journey. It has woven itself into the fabric of my memories, leaving an imprint on me that will stay for many, many years after I leave.

You could:

- Talk more about why the moment or place you shared is important to you
- Talk about how your connection to Birmingham has changed over the years
- Describe the city as if to someone who has never visited
- Talk about what people might misunderstand about Birmingham

Please email scanned worksheets
and/or videos to:
birmingham@literacytrust.org.uk



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