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# Portrait book gift for children

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From J.K. Rowling to C.S. Lewis, the National Portrait Gallery is to give 3,000 young people in four of London's children's hospitals a specially commissioned activity book of portraits and illustrations inspired by their favourite writers.

My Magical Journeys was launched at Evelina London Children's Hospital with a workshop given by one of the featured writers, poet John Hegley, and the book's illustrator, Lizzy Stewart.

The National Portrait Gallery is publishing the book to provide much-needed creative arts engagement for young people in hospitals, specifically during the school holidays when hospital schools are closed.

My Magical Journeys takes its inspiration from the theme of writers and poets in the Gallery's Collection and the fantastical and mythical worlds and characters they have created. The other authors chosen by the young people in hospitals to be included in the book are Roald Dahl, J.K. Rowling, Douglas Adams, Malorie Blackman, Lewis Carroll, C.S. Lewis, Michael Rosen, Benjamin Zephaniah, Edward Lear, Dame Jacqueline Wilson and J.R.R. Tolkien.

The book is a free resource to be given to



Author John Hegley at Evelina Children's Hospital

young people in hospital when the gallery is not delivering workshops and during the school year. Young people can use this resource on their own, with their families, whilst on the ward and at home. The scale and quality of the book ensures it can be used in many different clinical settings.

The project enables young peo-

ple and their families to access the gallery's collection and helps support health, wellbeing and happiness through participating in the book's activities and workshops.

Evelina London Children's Hospital is one of two specialist children's hospitals in London and provides around one in five of the UK's kidney transplants in chil-

dren. Surgeons have also pioneered surgery for hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

The project has been made possible thanks to funding from DIL Trust UK and the Aman Foundation UK. Dr Nicholas Cullinan, director of the National Portrait Gallery, said: This exciting project will bring portraits from the National Portrait Gallery's collection directly to London's children's hospital and will inspire their own creative responses to them.

"I would like to thank all the young people and staff at the hospitals for taking part in the workshops and for bringing this wonderful book featuring the children's favourite authors to fruition."

Janet Powell, director of nursing at Evelina London Children's Hospital, said: "We're really grateful to have been working with the National Portrait Gallery over the last 10 years.

"Our play specialists can work with up to 100 children a day and have found the support of the gallery immeasurable.

"Through their workshops they have opened the minds of so many children to the world of art, involving children of all ages, parents and siblings alike.

"We constantly see our work with the gallery resulting in happy smiling faces, providing a welcome distraction whatever their reason for being in hospital."