

A Shining Future

Writing and Pupils from Prisons and Secure Hospitals in the North West of England



Koestler Trust
arts by offenders ■ ■

Koestler Trust
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charity no. 1105759



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Project partners:

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CASTLEFIELD
GALLERY | AGENCY

**BOB AND
ROBERTA
SMITH**

Designed by Keith Sargent

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The North West Awards were selected
and judged by Peter Kalu, artistic
director at Commonword, and Alicia
Stubbersfield, poet and lecturer in
Creative Writing at Liverpool John
Moores University.

This anthology reveals young people's responses to some of the ingenious, moving and witty writing generated by the Koestler Awards in the North West.

In the spring of 2014 the Koestler Trust and Castlefield Gallery worked with a group of young people from HM Prison & Young Offender Institution in Warrington, engaging them with poems and stories by people in other prisons and secure hospitals in their local area. Through workshops, kindly funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the group read and discussed the writing. They then learned linocutting techniques and used these to engage and respond to the texts. This anthology shares both the resulting linocuts and the writing that inspired them.

In addition to awards for work from the North West, writing for this anthology has been considered for the UK Koestler Awards against thousands of pieces from across the UK. We are grateful to those individuals and organisations who have named UK and North West Koestler Awards, some of which have been awarded to texts in this anthology.

Each year the Koestler Awards inspire thousands of people in the criminal justice system to create art spanning over 60 visual, performance, craft and writing categories. The opportunity to enter the awards, receive feedback on their work, undertake mentoring and have the chance of publication or exhibition has a huge impact on these artists' self-esteem, skills and motivation.

The achievements and engagement we foster can improve confidence and employability, which in turn can aid rehabilitation and reduce reoffending. Koestler exhibitions and publications show the diverse talents of those in the criminal justice system to the public. As part of this engagement, we invite you to join the conversation by responding to your favourite linocut, poem or story in this anthology. We have included a postcard in the back of the book so your words can be passed on directly to the artists.

Turn to the back of this book for tips and ideas to help you create your own poem, story or artwork inspired by the work in this anthology!