



## What our judge had to say

### Category: Short Stories & Reflections

There were some lovely pieces of work in this category including a thoughtful essay about music, some amusing stories engaged with family, moving reflections about mental health and many other wonderful things. In the end it came down to my choice for the winner, 'Charlie' which reminds us of the innocence and bravado of children and their need for each other as well as the security of home: and the highly commended piece, 'Chez Nous' which offers such a loving portrait and memories of beloved family members and origins. Well done to both writers – and to everyone who entered work. Every piece of writing in the competition had something to recommend it.

**Dr Pauline Rowe**  
Mersey Care's Poet in Residence

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