

# CONNECTEDNESS THROUGH COMICS

a creative resource kit for young people and service providers

Manchester City of Literature, MMU and 42nd Street were keen to explore the impact of Covid-19 on young people's mental health.

The young people at 42nd Street, an innovative young people's mental health charity in Manchester, wanted to express some of the thoughts, feelings and fears they had encountered during the pandemic. They also wanted to give other young people the chance to be creative.

We commissioned a local visual artist, Ian Bobb, to address the young people's provocations. We touched on topics including 'the new normal', 'how can we adjust to the new world?' and 'information overload and its impact on mental health'.

Ian has produced an interactive 3-page comic strip that we hope will inspire creativity. On the following pages you will find the comic strips and some practical exercises for young people to respond to the strips in your own words and in your own way.

Please submit your responses to [McrCityofLit@gmail.com](mailto:McrCityofLit@gmail.com) by Friday 29th January 2021. We will select our 3 favourite submissions and present the winners with a framed copy of the strip.

We encourage you to be creative and to tell us your story of lockdown. Enjoy!

This project is presented by

**Manchester  
City of Literature**



**42<sup>ND</sup>  
STREET**





# Comic Strip 1: Exercises

1. Print out this document (single-sided) and follow the scissor marks to cut out the comic strip.
2. Read the strip and think of what story you think it is telling.
3. Get a scrap piece of paper and start to write down some responses to the following questions:

- Where is our protagonist going in the first image?
- How do they feel in that crowd of people?
- What music are they listening to?
- What are they thinking when they take their headphones off and realise everybody has disappeared?
- Do the empty streets make them feel lonely or free?

4. Using the text boxes on Page 5 of this package, use a pen to write in your own words to complete the story that is being told in the comic strip.
5. Place the text boxes on or around the comic strip to complete the story. Take a picture of your comic strip and send it to: [McrCityofLit@gmail.com](mailto:McrCityofLit@gmail.com)

# Comic Strip 2

## Exercises

1. Print out this document (single-sided) and follow the scissor marks to cut out the comic strip.
2. Read the strip and think of what story you think it is telling.
3. Get a scrap piece of paper and start to write down some responses to the following questions:

- What is our protagonist thinking whilst watching TV?
- How do they feel about the information they are being presented with?
- What is the journey of their mood through the strip?
- What kind of impact is Covid-19 having on their mental health?

4. Using the text boxes on Page 5 of this package, use a pen to write in your own words to complete the story that is being told in the comic strip.

5. Place the text boxes on or around the comic strip to complete the story. Take a picture of your comic strip and send it to:

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# Comic Strip 3

## Exercises

1. Print out this document (single-sided) and follow the scissor marks to cut out the comic strip.
2. Read the strip and think of what story you think it is telling.
3. Get a scrap piece of paper and start to write down some responses to the following questions:

- Why does our protagonist feel like they are in a new world?
- What do you think our protagonist falling from space might represent?
- What does our protagonist feel about the new conditions of the world? Think about the long queues and the masks etc.

4. Using the text boxes on Page 5 of this package, use a pen to write in your own words to complete the story that is being told in the comic strip.

5. Place the text boxes on or around the comic strip to complete the story. Take a picture of your comic strip and send it to:  
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