

Someone Like Me 2019, National Award Ceremony: Video Transcript

Caomhán Mac Con Iomaire, Competition Judge:

This is a wonderful event. I think it's such a thrill for children and their parents to come from where ever they're coming from around the country to come to Dublin come to this wonderful building city hall. The sense of togetherness that's within the crowd here we're all here for the one purpose and to celebrate this project

Aine O'Brien, Ballybrown N.S.

Highly Commended Winner of Someone Like Me 2019:

Someone Like Me taught me to be a lot more open-minded and aware of people with disabilities I'm very excited for the awards

5th & 6th Class of The Downs National School, Mullingar

Overall National Winner of Someone Like Me 2019:

It's a pop-up book for a boy in our school called Fionn in first class and a few years ago he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. We always think of him as a real-life superhero

Peter Ryan, Paralympic Cyclist:

I'm legally blind. I lost 80-90 percent of my vision back at the start of 2010 and I suppose the diagnosis meant that I wasn't going to go fully blind and I had no gratitude around that early doors. But thankfully now nine years later I'm living this cool, healthy life and every percent that I can see, I maximise that. Kids rarely see the thing that's wrong with you, they're not conditioned to have biases and there's a beauty attached to that as well where as I tell someone I'm visually impaired and they almost think you are vulnerable but you're not, you can do anything in this life and that's why I'm here supporting this event. I do think, getting the conversation started is a way to just normalise it.

5th & 6th Class of The Downs National School, Mullingar

Overall National Winner of Someone Like Me 2019:

Award Ceremony MC:

Our National Winner of the Someone Like Me Art Competition 2019 is..

Caomhán Mac Con Iomaire, Competition Judge:

The winning entry, we were just simply blown away by it, the artwork, the message, the story. I was close to tears looking at it. It was absolutely brilliant.

Award Ceremony MC:

It's 5th and 6th class of the Downs National School Mullingar, County Westmeath!

5th & 6th Class of The Downs National School, Mullingar

Overall National Winner of Someone Like Me 2019:

When we heard our names called out, we were just so excited

Catherine Staunton, Teacher, The Downs National School, Mullingar:

We didn't think it was going to come at all, we didn't think we were going to win. I was thrilled and amazed that all the hard work paid off. So, it's definitely a great way to finish our first year in primary school winning this year. I would recommend Someone Like Me to other schools because I think it's very important for children from a very young age to learn about inclusion and to become aware of disabilities and different types of disabilities. It's cross-curricular activity, you can bring in all the different subject areas. But it really gets the children thinking and they've become closer as a class and closer as a school