



Erykah's story*

*The names of the young person and Creative Mentor have been changed to protect the young person's identity.

Erykah has a career goal of one day opening a Cat Cafe & Bakery. I think it's so incredible that Erykha is so focused on her education and future aspirations.

Scarlett, Creative Mentor

Erykah showed me a poem she had written. It was really beautiful and so clever - her use of language was just wonderful.

Scarlett, Creative Mentor

I feel like I'm building a bond with you.

Erykah, Mentee

fighting for the creative voices

of children and young people

the mighty creatives



background

Erykah was 14 years old when she was initially referred for Creative Mentoring with The Mighty Creatives. She was struggling with feelings of anxiety within the school environment and this led to her requiring additional support from the school's hub. Erykah had previously had a mentor at school and benefitted from having a positive adult to talk with. Erykah was referred for Creative Mentoring to help boost her self esteem and confidence, while providing her with the opportunity to build a positive relationship and explore and develop new skills in an area of interest.

who was Erykah matched with?

A Creative Mentor, Scarlett*, was matched with Erykah. Scarlett is a multi-disciplined artist, who works in Visual Arts, Photography, Arts & Crafts, and many other artistic disciplines. Scarlett was matched with Erykah as she had worked very well, previously, with similar mentees. Scarlett and Erykah worked together over a period of 16 weeks, exploring a variety of artistic forms such as pottery, drawing and painting. Scarlett would meet Erykah at her school each week to deliver hour-long sessions.

what happened next?



During their initial sessions, revealed to Scarlett that she liked baking, pottery and illustration (drawing & painting). During their first session, they spoke about siblings, pets and passions and found they shared very similar artistic interests. Erykah also spoke with Scarlett about her future aspirations of owning a Bakery & Cat Café, and the importance of making the right academic choices.

Scarlett was also very impressed with how conscientious and focused Erykah is: **"I think it's so incredible that Erykah is so focused on her education and future aspirations."**



Image: Freepik



With Erykah's love for baking, Scarlett found ways of incorporating baking into the art they were creating. They chose to explore the work of Tom Hovey, the illustrator for The Great British Bake Off.

Inspired by Tom Hovey's work, they created their own Cake Design illustrations.

"Today we looked into the work of Tom Hovey, the illustrator for The Great British Bake Off, and we started to create our own cake illustrations inspired by him."



what was a key moment in Erykah's journey?

In one of Erykah's final sessions, she showed Scarlett a poem she had written. Scarlett was really impressed by this and said:

"Erykah showed me a poem she had written. It was really beautiful and so clever - her use of language was just wonderful."



Over the course of these sessions, Erykah and Scarlett were able to build a great bond with each other through exploring different artistic styles and applying them to what they both found interesting: baking and illustration.

what positive changes were seen?

One of the many highlights of the Creative Mentoring sessions was when Erykah painted some pottery she had made with Scarlett.

"I'm so impressed with how well Erykah has done. She frequently says she doesn't really love art, but she is so good at it!"

Scarlett has been a positive influence on Erykah and has been able to help improve Erykah's confidence and willingness to try new things she would have previously ignored. Erykah has also told Scarlett she is building a bond with her. This bond has strengthened, over the time shared, with Erykah opening up about her home and personal life.



Image: Freepik



what progress has been made?

Using our 8 Measures of Progress tool, Erykah moved up one point (some progress) in Communication. While no other progress was recorded by Erykah, this is a massive leap from her starting point recorded in the first session.

From the session reports and action records, it is clear to see that Erykah has made great progress working with Scarlett. Scarlett was able to create a bond with Erykah, which empowered her to express her feelings and explore the world with confidence.

Our vision is to inspire children and young people to harness the power of arts, creativity and culture for positive change.

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