



## Reading Force rewards

A NAVAL Nurse discovered an ideal way to engage with his young daughter while he was separated from his family during a three month deployment in support of the Olympics last summer.

Reading Force is a shared reading activity that helps to bring Service families closer together.

Taking part is free for all Armed Forces, Reserves, Cadets and ex-Services children, families and friends, whether at home or away on deployment, or working away on exercises or training.

The charity encourages Service families to enjoy sharing a book together and completing a free Reading Force scrapbook as a memento.

Families can choose from the recommended reading list, or choose any book.

CPÖ(ÑÑ) Michael Taylor said: "Katie and I chose the book *Skyhawk* by Gill Lewis, and it soon became our special shared project.

"It very quickly became our focus of telephone conversations and emails over the three months I was away.

"We'd discuss how far we had got to in the book, and when I got back we put together our scrapbook."

To their delight, Katie and Michael's completed scrapbook won Reading Force's 2012 National Prize, including a trip to see the award-winning West End theatre show *Matilda*, which they both declared was "fantastic".

Katie said: "My Dad's away quite a lot and I always miss him.

"It was really fun to have a chance to do this together – we really enjoyed it.

"I drew a picture that illustrated every chapter in our scrapbook.

"I won the competition the same day I got a reply from my favourite author, Jacqueline Wilson, so it was a really brilliant day."

This year's Great Reading Force Competition closes on September 30 and winners will be announced on Monday October 21.

To get a free scrapbook and take part in the scheme contact: [www.readingforce.org.uk](http://www.readingforce.org.uk)