

**MY BROTHER JACK
AWARDS 2021**

**SHORT STORIES AND
POETRY**

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Junior Secondary Poetry

Judge's Report – Alicia Sometimes

2021 has been another year with so many moments of uncertainty and one where we all have so much to express. Numerous poems displayed innovatively crafted themes on helping others, humanitarian causes, loneliness, exuberance, friendships, caring for the planet and reaching out to those we love. It can't be overstated how many entrants submitted high quality work. It does make the judging harder but rewarding when you read a poem over and over again. Just know, that if your poem wasn't chosen, there's a strong chance it was on the shortlist I came back to multiple times. It is inspiring to know that so many people are communicating with poetry.

Congratulations to all the wonderful poets who entered the *My Brother Jack Awards* this year and much praise and glitter to those incredible writers who won!

First Prize

Longing by Kyley Chen

This was a section full of so many delights. The winning poem 'Longing' is so relatable and elegant in its description of wishing to be anywhere but within the confines of home. Many poems were about escape and this poem encapsulates this gracefully with the poet's wish to be 'in the dazzling, timeless sea'. It is a vibrant vignette about yearning.

Highly Commended

Simply Sunday by Edie Halliday-Morris

Highly Commended

Giving a Hand by Linh Nguyen

Highly Commended

The Signs of a Lockdown by Alana Roberts

Junior Secondary Poetry – *First Prize*

Longing

by Kyley Chen

It's the longing to be somewhere other than here,
somewhere other than home.

Those ancient red curtains, the canary-coloured kitchen walls.

Tightly woven tapestries lay slumped down in the gritty, grey dust.

It's true beauty hidden from the unsightful eyes of us.

It's the longing to be in the dazzling, timeless sea,
the playful ocean breeze sweeping over me.

Or maybe just maybe on the other side of the globe,

I'm greeted by a sprinkle of powdered snow.

Junior Secondary Poetry – *Highly Commended*

Simply Sunday

by Edie Halliday-Morris

A faint aroma of a sage and sea salt candle fills the room,

A small fire contained within the safety of a glass jar.

Warbling of magpies in the distance; harmonizing with rain on the roof

pitter, patter

I hold the cream-colored paper covered in small black letters

Wrapped in its cover, just as I am.

My other hand hugs the warm mug filled with hot water, accompanied by lemon.

Yet,

Nothing is sour in this moment. It's simply-

Sunday.

Junior Secondary Poetry – *Highly Commended*

Giving a Hand

by Linh Nguyen

His feet dangle over the abyss,
Fingertips slipping off the edge.
The weariness eats at him,
The strain of holding on tearing at him.
But someone steps forward.
A firm grip around his wrist, a harsh tug,
The darkness shrinks behind him,
The daylight now warms his face.

Junior Secondary Poetry – *Highly Commended*

The Signs of a Lockdown

by Alana Roberts

Puzzles, Podcasts, Paintings

Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown

Baking, Bikes, Boardgames

Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown

Dogs, Diaries, Dancing

Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown

Singing, School, Survivor

Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown

Movies, Making, Messages

Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown