



Senior Secondary School Poetry Category

Judge's Report – Wendy Joseph

Sadly there were fewer entries in the Senior Secondary School category. Understandably the curriculum in the later years of high school gets very crowded and time becomes an issue, so a very big thank you and congratulations to all the students who entered and all the teachers who encouraged them.

Some suggestions for secondary school poets:

In some cases the meaning of the work was muddled by grammar, spelling and punctuation errors. Proofreading for this kind of problem is really important! It is also very helpful to read your poem out aloud to hear how it scans. Consider, where does the reader take a breath, what is the rhythm beneath the words. Poetry is a very condensed art form, so make every word work for you. Finally, don't feel that writing poetry requires an elevated 'poetic' type of language - sometimes simpler is better.

First Prize

Invisibility – By Grace Baldwin

for its humorous advice on making the world a better place.

Senior Secondary School Poetry – *First Prize*

Invisibility

by Grace Baldwin

Imagine if there was a war –
And no one showed up.
They slept in instead,
Made hot coffee and buttery toast.
They laid in bed until midday doing the crossword
Watched the clouds
Streaming sun on crisp sheets
Heard the magpies.
A war that no one shows up to.
Politics that become people
Debates that find faces
Headlines that are humans.
Everyone was too tired, see,
Their shoulders were sore from carrying their secrets.
A sleep was better advised
So the weapons were dropped
The chains were broken.
Rather than clenching fists
Pressure building and blistering
They chose to extend them out, palms up,
An offering.

a war,

but

no one

shows up.