

## **Junior Secondary Poetry**

Congratulations to all the magnificent poets who entered the My Brother Jack Awards this year and a mountainous amount of awe and praise to the incredible writers who won!

The submissions for 2023 are full of variety, originality and skill. It's interesting to note the themes, subject matter and focus that change each year. Some topics are universal and will always continue to come in: love, family, connections, vulnerability, environment and hope. This year there was also poems about seasons, garage sales, Rubik's cubes, island beaches, Aussie Rules, record collections, trains and so much more.

The consistently high quality of work is inspiring. Every time I read the Junior and Senior Secondary Poetry submissions, I'm astounded at the breadth and depth of the poems. I know it's cliché to say, but the future is in exceptional poetic hands!

The Junior Secondary Poetry section is always full of ingenuity and surprise. I hope you enjoy the winning poems as much as I did.

### ***These Woods No Longer* – First**

*These Woods No Longer* is a temporary moment captured in ten lines, meditating on the state of the environment. This writer deftly reveals the state of our forests, treatment of the trees and power struggles we have with nature. Short and compelling.

### ***Drowning* – Highly Commended**

A sophisticated and ominous study of feeling overwhelmed and not quite feeling as if everything is as it should be.

### ***The Bees* – Highly Commended**

A simple yet devastating haiku about being stung by a bee.