



2020 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST DIVISION 1 – GRADES 4 TO 6

ALEXIS PEREIRA, GRADE 4 SACRED HEART OF JESUS BURLINGTON THIRD PLACE



BOAT PEOPLE

My parents tell me we're going on an adventure
On a boat ride in the open sea
First the children and women, then the men pile in the boat
We go on the boat for days
There's nothing but water all around us
The boat tosses in the high waves, but we aren't having fun
I hold the ropes
The salty water stings the cuts on my hands
It's not like playing in the waves at the beach with my sisters and cousins
We are squished close together on the boat
Quiet whispers
The smell of sweat
It's so hot like you are standing on the sun
My face is burning
Exhausted, frightened and anxious
It's not an adventure
It's not for fun
This boat ride is to escape the dangers of our home
This boat ride will take us to a place that is safe
We hope
We pray



**2020 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS
CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST
DIVISION 2 – GRADES 7 TO 8**

**RYKAA SHETTY, GRADE 8
LYNN ROSE COLLEGE
THIRD PLACE**



COLOURS OF SOULS, NOT SKINS

My father left me
My mother nowhere in sight
I crouch below the ground, suffering from another day's freight

Beaten, used, my strength is worn out
All this because of the colour I'm not!

I'm all alone, without a place to call my own
Weeping about my scars, behind the brutal bars
But where shall I flee?
As I am nowhere to be

I close my eyes gently
And wish upon a star
That I will reach the promised land
We all dream about

Today is the day,
I escape it all
The torture, the fear, the pain to exist at all
To a land
The name
Canada.

A place where everyone is equal
A place where I won't be judged

A place where I can be free
A place where it's about the colour of souls, not skins



2020 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST DIVISION 3 – GRADES 9 TO 12

SULAIMAN ALSHAMI, GRADE 12 BISHOP P.F. REDING CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL THIRD PLACE



A DIFFERENT WORLD

I wish that we had a world filled with kindness
Lived in a world which appreciates boldness
A world that welcomes differences
And accepts all people no matter the distances
Refugees are humans created by the same God
Be kind to them
It isn't their fault that they're forced here
Be nice to them
They experienced different kinds of fear
It's a privilege having a life that's filled with luxuries
It's a right having a life that includes all the basic needs
You don't choose the place you are born in
Or sometimes the place you are from
Refugees don't always choose the countries that they're from
Women, children and elderlies are often considered weak
Be kind to them even before they come and seek
I hope that we can see a difference in the treatment of all kinds
And become good role models for the next generation
By showing how we welcomed people gracefully
I wish for a better world
I wish