



**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