



**2021 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS
CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST
DIVISION 2 – GRADES 7 TO 8**

**MIKAELA PEREIRA, GRADE 8
SACRED HEART OF JESUS CATHOLIC
SCHOOL
FIRST PRIZE**



**WHAT WOULD YOU PACK IN YOUR
SUITCASE?**

What would you pack in your suitcase if you were leaving home for a day?

An outfit or two from your closet and drawers

And a brush for your teeth and hair

What would you pack in your suitcase if leaving home for a week?

Clothes for each day, an outfit for different occasions

Your journal and a camera, to document your days

What would you pack in your suitcase if leaving home for a month or even for a year?

A suitcase-full of clothes and shoes and another for your favourite things

Books, jewelry and special things to remind you of home until you return again

What would you pack in your suitcase if you were leaving home for life?

Never to return again, starting life in a country that is new

They packed one suitcase for their family, a suitcase old, worn, battered and bruised

A day's worth of clothes, a child's favourite doll

Some photographs tucked neatly in an envelope

No trinkets or mementos from their past

The suitcase packed quickly when they had the chance

Frightened and confused

Not leaving for a day, but leaving for a life time

Their suitcase is all they have to connect them to their past

It holds the story of their hardship, their fear they wouldn't survive another day

But their suitcase is their courage

Their hope for the future, a promise for a better life

So what would you pack in your suitcase if you were fleeing for your safety

Never returning to a place you once called home?