



**2021 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS
CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST
DIVISION 3 – GRADES 9 TO 12**

**MATTHEW PECHEN-BERG, GRADE 12
RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL
SECOND PRIZE**



THE BIZARRE EARTH

Those who had lived here can no longer,
So my homeland is melting, and soon yours is underwater:
But where did all the people go?

This damage cannot be healed in court,
To do the impossible is to in the fire construct a snow fort:
But why don't I see the snow?

The sky is now black, clashing against the sun's light,
Smokestacks keep spewing in everything's despite:
But why can't we breathe?

Many are laughing while exploiting our nation,
Following a moral code that is built for self-preservation:
But where did everything go wrong?

An empty stomach plagues all in this land,
Great famines and hunger by man or the divine's hand:
But how can we go on?

Everyone faces discrimination for the new crime of living,
Existing in our world that is less than forgiving:
But is there a port in the storm?

To become orphans of the planet with no home which to return,
To be wandering through nothing with no torches to burn,
To stare at a future that looks so stern,

Everyone is affected, no land is untouched,
Boundaries will be rejected, belongings tightly clutched,
That which should have been protected has fallen to
malice and grudge.