



PENS *Against* **POVERTY!**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNING ENTRIES



About Pens Against Poverty

The Pens Against Poverty Schools Writing Competition encourages schools, teachers, and students to become educated in the important issues of poverty and homelessness within our communities in Australia, while nurturing brave young voices through creative writing.

This year's theme, *Voices for Change*, attracted hundreds of entries from schools across the country. Anglicare Australia is delighted to announce this year's winners.

Honouring Our Winners

The winning entries will be honoured at this year's Pens Against Poverty Awards Ceremony. Ordinarily held during Anti-Poverty Week, this year's ceremony will be held later this year in Canberra.

The Pens Against Poverty Schools Award

The Pens Against Poverty School Award is conferred for high quality writing reflected across all student entries, as well as the school's commitment to the competition through the number of entries.

Winner: Pulteney Grammar, SA

Highly Commended: Pymble Ladies' College, NSW

This award is accompanied by a \$500 prize for the winner and the highly commended schools. Anglicare Australia congratulates St Pulteney Grammar School and Pymble Ladies' College on their outstanding entries this year.

Years 3 and 4: Poetry

Winner: **Imagine a World**
Chloe Ma
Pymble Ladies' College

This is an extract from 'Imagine a World' the winning entry in this category:

Remember that,
everyone has a voice,
and even the smallest change,
can help.
Everyone should be bouncing with glee.
After we,
change the world.

Highly Commended: My Life
Nick Chalmers
Emmaus Christian School

This is an extract from 'My Life' the highly commended entry in this category:

I am living in this school with everyone
Everyone pushing
I am getting weaker as everything goes
Most things slowing

Years 3 and 4: Stories

Winner: **The Beginning**
Kerys Rezek
St Matthew's Primary School

This is an extract from 'The Beginning' the winning entry in this category:

I woke up from dreaming, when my mum came in. "Start packing" she said. "Why" I asked ,she looked hesitant to reply. "Well, I'll tell you in the car, " she snapped. I started to pack my suitcases.

Highly Commended: Rain
Georgia Smythe
Reddam House Primary School

This is an extract from 'Rain' the highly commended entry in this category:

Rain. hard rain was pouring down from the cloudy, grey sky, running down my face and dripping off my soggy chin. My deep blue sleeping bag wasn't keeping me warm and the little shop awning I was sleeping under didn't do much good either. I watched as rain poured from the sky and eventually drifted off to sleep.

Years 5 and 6: Poetry

Winner: **Hope**
 Avi Jain
 Canberra Grammar School

This is an extract from 'Hope' the winning entry in this category:

A crop
In the harsh winter of Poverty
A shield
For those who live on the streets
Some nourishment
For those whose stomachs feel hollow
Determination
For those who are about to give up

Highly Commended: To Change the World
 Chloe Shires
 Pymble Ladies' College

This is an extract from 'To Change the World' the highly commended entry in this category:

We are never too small
To do something right
Together we can do it
Unite and fight

Years 5 and 6: Stories

Winner: **A Story of Hope**
 Vivienne Gaffey
 Canberra Grammar School

This is an extract from 'A Story of Hope' the winning entry in this category:

In a vibrant meadow nestled between rolling hills, lived a curious young grasshopper named Bill. Unlike his fellow grasshoppers, Bill had a dream that was more than the ordinary chirping and hopping. He wanted something more unique, which was to find his voice.

Highly Commended: Silenced
 Charlotte Xue
 Pymble Ladies' College

This is an extract from 'Silenced' the highly commended entry in this category:

The rain hit the ground harder than any downpour had before. Murky clouds hid the sky from view. Passerbys hurried down the streets, their gaze fixed on cell phones, eyes glassy and unfeeling.

Years 7 and 8: Poetry

Winner: Longing for a Home
Sophia Haggarty
Belconnen High School

This is an extract from 'Longing for a Home' the winning entry in this category:

Alone on the streets
At night it gives you the creeps
Stuck gum, stuck to everything
There's only ever nice weather in spring

Highly Commended: The Life of a Gladiator
Zoe Downing
Australian Christian College Southlands

This is an extract from 'The Life of a Gladiator' the highly commended entry in this category:

In the night as the stars hang limp in the sky,
their twinkle no more than an eerie glow.
Trees no longer move with the rhythm of the wind,
Their dance, no more than a waltz in the cold.

Years 7 and 8: Stories

Winner: It Will Never Be The Same
Katie Chalmers
Emmaus Christian School

This is an extract from 'It Will Never be the Same' the winning entry in this category:

The next couple of weeks were some of the hardest of Stacey's life, feeling hungry, cold, and unsafe, as her father tried so desperately to pay their rent. Finally, her father told her the awful news that she knew was coming.
"We have to move out. We won't be able to afford this house if we want to survive."
"Would we be able to find a cheaper place near the Hospital?"
"We'll see."

Highly Commended: Hindsight
Alice Dent
Woodcroft College

This is an extract from 'Hindsight' the highly commended entry in this category:

The world we live in now is an open desert. The days are hot and long, and we must preserve the water we have. Water is expensive, even washing your hands in a public bathroom comes with a bill. There are hardly any animals, just feral birds that fly around the empty and abandoned cities, all the other animals extinct years ago.

Years 9 and 10: Poetry

Winner: **What About Tomorrow**
 Nia Ludik
 Australian Christian College

This is an extract from 'What About Tomorrow' the winning entry in this category:

Last night was frost ridden, freezing all the stars,
I asked Papa "What about tomorrow? All the water's so far."
Early morning yet daybreaks are all the same,
Breathing down my neck the chilling air left unchanged.

Highly Commended: Voices of Change
 Olivia Goncalves
 Woodcroft College

This is an extract from 'Voices of Change' the highly commended entry in this category:

System, schedules, routines, they're not supposed to change, the same story recurring
forever
That's how I liked it, that's how it was, until one day it changed, and I didn't expect it at
all
everyone said bye, some see you later, but I didn't want to tell them goodbye not now,
not ever
The voice is my head that was very rarely there, continued to hide, so insignificant, so
small

Years 9 and 10: Stories

Winner: **Singing Under the Willow Tree**
 Janna Fuhrmann
 Woodcroft College

This is an extract from 'Singing Under the Willow Tree' the winning entry in this category:

I used to dream of it every night, with a deep longing that left me aching and
breathless as I woke up. It filled my mind, the scent of grass invading my senses, the
slight rustling of the leaves seeming to wrap around me and lift me up, away from the
pressure, away from the stress.

Highly Commended: Growing Up
 Charli Aitken
 Woodcroft College

This is an extract from 'Growing Up' the highly commended entry in this category:

Maybe you would look older but that wasn't always a good thing. Looking in the
mirror hurts now. You are either too tall, too short, or too big. Picking out
imperfections and criticising yourself just because you don't look perfect.