

FIRST PRIZE

Underwater

In the blue ocean,
In the middle of the sea,
Underwater is a great place to be.
Here are some things you'll see:
The clown fish, the sharks, and maybe even turtles too.
The blowfish and dolphins, and some will make you say, "Eww!"
Abandoned pirate ships that will curse you.
Old treasures, but just a few.
Scuba-diving helmets lost at sea.
A lot of garbage that surrounds me.
Underwater, underwater, where the animals live,
There the fish and dolphins like to swim.
If only underwater had more things.
Dive into the ocean and see how it is.

by Martin Chaparro (Grade Five)
Holy Cross Elementary School
Burnaby, British Columbia

FIRST PRIZE

Not My Woods

I take a step out towards the woods,
not my woods.
I look out at the fields,
not my fields.
I take a deep breath of the hot, muggy summer air.
I set a slow pace for that strange forest.
I watch the overly bright sun rise,
not my sun.

I look into the woods,
not my woods.
I take a step into the cool shade.
I hear the crickets chirping
and the birds singing,
just like in my woods.
I lie down on the soft, silky grass
and look up at the bright blue sky,
just like my sky.

I take another breath of the hot, muggy air,
it feels more right,
more true.

I take a step out towards the woods,
my woods.
I look out at the fields,
my fields.
I gaze into the cool shade,
and I feel the summer breeze ruffle my hair.
I lie down on the soft, silky grass
and watch the stars come out over my new home.

by Story Blottner (Grade Six)
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Whitehorse, Yukon

SECOND PRIZE

Ode to Potatoes

Potatoes, potatoes, the best thing you can eat.
Trust me, try one, potatoes can't be beat.
You can boil them, bake them, cook them in the oven.
I never eat one, I always eat a dozen!
Potatoes are veggies, they're healthy and delicious.
Even if you eat a lot, they don't get repetitious!
You can also make some other stuff, like French fries and chips.
There's so much you can do with them, they have me doing flips!
So, potatoes, do you like them? They're very, very delicious.
They're pretty good for you, and also quite nutritious.

by Nolan Prince (Grade Five)
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SECOND PRIZE

Earth

I've heard stories of a beautiful Earth
Where snow still fell in winter and when pure water flowed in rivers
I was intrigued by a world where we are able to shiver
For in the world I know, there is nothing but intense heat
Where some live with next to nothing, and it is not possible to thrive or overeat
But others are obsessed with pieces of paper they call money
That makes them very powerful and rich
There is enough money for everyone to have an equal amount
But many do not take this into account
While some live in mansions
With their luxuries in constant expansion
And plates getting persistently refilled
Some live on the streets
Where children cannot savour treats
They go to bed with empty tummies
As they never have the chance to eat something yummy
Some people will bow down to anything to get richer
They pollute the air and dry up the lakes
Their terrible actions are causing massive outbreaks
They throw stuff away where it doesn't belong
And leak oil in bodies of water without knowing what is at stake
It's later that they realize their mistakes
After the tsunamis flood cities, and then begin the quakes
Everywhere you look are blazing fires and hurricanes
The selfish ones try to escape and try hopelessly fleeing in planes
But are out of luck as this catastrophe is global
And there is no escaping the damage we have caused
The Earth is fighting a losing battle to an enemy of our creating: Climate Change
And eventually, it will be too late
The damage will become irreparable and the Earth will become eternally sick
If we don't try to fix our mistakes and change our ways
The world will end

by Jasleen Mangat (Grade Six)
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Milton, Ontario

THIRD PRIZE

Hockey Mania

When you have the ball
Don't crash into the wall
With the ball on your stick
You've got to be quick

In the opponent's zone
There is no time for snow cones
Either choose to pass or shoot
But hit him in the boot!

Wearing gloves, it can be tricky
To fire the puck in a jiffy
With helmets on, aim for the net
Because it's a guaranteed threat

The goalie might give you the evil eye
Might murmur, "Don't be that guy!"
Don't doubt yourself; fire the puck!
High-fiving teammates, it's not just luck!

But wait! It's not over yet!
There is still a period left
Another face-off soon begins
Determines who ultimately wins

The puck drops on the ice
The defencemen check you twice
You pass the puck aggressively
The coach hoots at you impressively

You celebrate too soon
The team plays a different tune
The puck is intercepted
An opposing goal is accepted

Hockey is a nail biter
Every moment reveals a fighter
At the end of the day
It's just good fun and play

by Thomas Hao (Grade Five)
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Delta, British Columbia

THIRD PRIZE

Home of the Stars

Wink, wink
go the stars,
their bedazzling smiles
fill the sky.
Gazing up,
I feel I could
touch
the great balls of flame.

I won't leave this grassy hill,
where the trees sway,
the birds chirp songs for eternity,
and the stars shimmer
like sparklers.

For in the great city's light,
Nature's night-lights hide behind the sun,
and when the darkness of night falls,
stars are overshadowed
by the bland city lamps.

There, I cannot see
the dance of stars,
the constantly
changing constellations.

I refuse to leave
this enchanted spot.

This is my
home.

by Sarah Grover (Grade Six)
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