

FIRST PRIZE

The Warm Ocean Tides

Standing at the ocean—big, deep, and mysterious
Staring at the calm, blue, and beautiful waves splashing at my feet

As I watch the waves emerge and fall . . . I feel as if we have no meaning at all
What is my purpose in this life? I want to be great, change the world, but . . . how?

The universe is small, the galaxy tiny; our planet is microscopic, our buildings meaningless,
Yet we've made our own world, our own universe out of it

But we have taken advantage of our gift of a small universe within our reach; we have been
destroying it, changing it in ways that we are not aware of, ruining it for future generations

I wish to save the world, use what we have to help us not destroy it

Standing at the ocean—big, deep, and mysterious
Staring at the calm, blue, and beautiful waves splashing at my feet . . .

by Aylie Gagliese and Adelyn Howell (Grade Five)

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East York, Ontario

FIRST PRIZE

My Real Form

I might seem strong,
But that's where you're wrong.

Inside, I am weak,
But that's not what you see.

You see my outside,
But that's my disguise.

To hide my real form,
The thing I despise,

I try to act big,
But I know that I'm small.

But I don't let that stop me
From playing basketball.

And yes, I do lose focus sometimes,
But when the game starts, it's my time to shine.

So, don't get tricked by my appearance,
The best thing about me is my perseverance

To become big and strong,
So I can prove others wrong.

by Beckett Zavitz Hayes (Grade Six)
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SECOND PRIZE

Wandering in a Wintry Forest

Outside the doors, the chilly breeze
Awaits, while the warm fireplace
Says goodbye; the icy draught sweeps
Me away, and I wander.

The tree trunks have barren hands,
Covered with white frost and snow. I
Wander aimlessly, but I see
Only trees, 'til a frore lake unfolds.

The frore white snow gleams like diamonds;
It is very pretty indeed.
I lie down, and the breeze whisks me
Home, all cozy and warm in bed.

As I doze off to sleep, my
Dreams come true; the pretty forest
Visits me in bed. I remember
It all, everything I've seen, I
Relive it again.

by *Luc Hung* (Grade Five)
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SECOND PRIZE

Night in the Forest

Stars light up the cloudless night,
The full moon glows proud and bright.
A wolf's howl pierces the air,
Sound breaks out everywhere.

An owl's hoot, the croak of a toad,
Cars' engines from the far-off road.
Rustling branches, the snap of sticks,
Cheeping of robin chicks.

A fox dashes across a clearing,
Running from a danger nearing.
Ripples in the dark pond,
A turtle emerges seeking dawn.

The sun rises into the sky,
Home again, the bats fly.
Out of the trees comes a deer,
Morning is finally here.

by Sydney Sharples (Grade Six)
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THIRD PRIZE

Doubt

I always think I'm not good enough,
But on the outside, I act so tough.

What if I get bad marks on this test?
Even though I really tried my best.

What if I fail on the subject?
Or do bad on this project?

What if my friends think I'm weird?
And they'd be so happy if I disappeared?

Why are there so many questions in life?
And why do they all cut through like a knife?

When will I start believing in myself?
Where are the answers? on a shelf?

I sit there thinking, like a vulnerable pawn,
Not moving a muscle till the first rays of dawn.

But now I think I know the key:
Is it just to be like me?

by Olivia Liu (Grade Five)
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THIRD PRIZE

Wind

A gust of wind hit me
A refreshing feeling bumped into me

Refreshing like a stream of gentle and clear water sipped into my throat
Refreshing like water splashing freely into a waterfall
All of a sudden, my mood started to change from tired and bored to happy and excited

My eyes lit up with excitement, my feet started dancing
I jumped with happiness, causing my hair to sway with the wind
I felt as if I were a part of the wind, and we were bound together by a strong connection

My heart leapt, ready to give energy to wherever my body called for it
My body was also piled up with enough energy to last forever
My brain could calculate impossible math problems in less than one second
I was ready to do anything people can possibly do

I saw happiness in everything
There were flowers blooming, trees swaying joyfully as if controlling the wind
Waves washing against each other, powerful but gentle, butterflies fluttering as if playing a game

A storm-like wind hit me
I could barely breathe, for that was quite impossible

The wind blew my spirits apart
I felt dizzy and hypnotized; there was an unstoppable pain in my chest that was growing

The memories of anger and despair came back to me
Everything boiled my chest with anger, made me unable to think and be myself
With every second, my heart beat faster; with every minute, I was more like another creature
I needed to work harder and harder for each breath I was going to take
The wind was determined to keep using this force until I could resist no more

It was as painful as a bowling ball repeatedly smashing into your chest at the worst moments
I could no longer see the world through normal eyes; I would no longer ever be the same again
The world around me became dark, and all I could see were the parts of the world full of sorrow

The trees were falling apart; there were no birds chirping happily and no insects crawling around
The squirrels had decided to hide themselves in the very depths of their little nest
I was alone

by Emily Qian (Grade Six)
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