

# Mother Tongue Other Tongue

## 2018-19 Anthology



*Add your voice to the poet-tree*

# Foreword



In an age intent on building walls and fragmenting relationships on a global scale, the need to celebrate difference and diversity through language and culture has never been more pressing.

Poetry offers the chance to look at things in different and often new ways. We walk through many lives when we read these poems, intimately exploring a variety of topics from bullying and immigration to protecting the environment and peace.

It is a privilege to witness the thoughts and feelings of these young people woven throughout this beautiful anthology, particularly in these confusing and uncertain times. Moreover, it is humbling when the wisdom of innocence and youth makes us sit up and question what kind of world we are creating. Listen well!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Juliette Lee". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, decorative flourish at the end of the name.

**Juliette Lee**

Poet and MTOT facilitator



# Dafidi

**WINNER  
P1-P3**



Dafidi  
Dafidi wulo  
Iranlọwọ ati aanu  
Iranlọwọ, ore ati ore  
Iranlọwọ, abo, ore ati pinpin  
Onilara

David  
David is helpful  
Helpful and kind  
Helpful, kind and friendly  
Helpful, kind, friendly and sharing  
Generous

My name is David Taiwo. My poem is about myself. It is an adjective poem. Adjectives are describing words. I am helpful and friendly because I help my friends at lunchtime.

My family speak Yoruba. My mum and dad are from Africa. I know some words and I am learning words - e kaaro is good morning and e Kaasan is good afternoon. I want to learn to write sentences and read my own writing.

I have enjoyed MTOT. My favourite thing we do is draw pictures and writing sentences. I like showing off my good work to Miss Mackay.

**David Taiwo**

P1-P3, Our Lady of Peace Primary  
School (Yoruba)

# Bullismo - Bullying

HIGHLY  
COMMEDED



Bello è  
Un amico che è  
Li vicino a me  
Lontano dalla  
Invidia e che chiede  
Scusa se mi fa del  
Male, non è  
OK fare il bullo direi

Beautiful is  
A friend who is  
There close to me  
Far from  
Envy and says sorry  
Sorry if he hurts me  
It is not  
OK to be a bully I would say

I was born in Scotland, but my family lives in Italy. So I decided to write a poem in Italian about friendship. I have a lot of friends and we don't like bullies. We are all equal and we need to care for others.

**Giulia Ferretti**

P1-P3, St Aloysius College Junior School (Italian)

# The Tiger

HIGHLY  
COMMEDED

বাঘ

পালাও পালাও বাঘ এসেছে  
কালো হলুদ আমার শরীর  
হাউ মাউ খাউ মানুষের গন্ধ পাউ  
পালাও পালাও  
ছেলে মেয়ে সবাই বড় ভয় পায়  
দেখে সবাই তাই দৌড়ে পালাও

শব্দ্য

পালাও পালাও ক্যা এমে

কালো হলুদ আমার শরীর

হাউ মাউ খাউ মানুষের গন্ধ পাউ

পালাও পালাও

ছেলে মেয়ে সবাই বড় ভয় পায়

দেখে সবাই তাই দৌড়ে পালাও



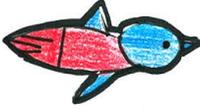
My name is Ishal and I have just arrived in Scotland. I have come from Dhaka in Bangladesh and I speak Bengali. I came with my parents because my dad is at UWS studying. Bangladesh is very different to Paisley.

The national animal of Bangladesh is the tiger. I wrote my poem about this animal because it is an incredible beast. I have seen tigers in the zoo but in my country you can see tigers in the countryside and villages. Wild Bengal tigers are dangerous because they are strong hunters and can sometimes attack people, but they are very beautiful animals and have inspired many writers.

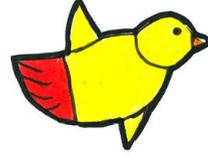
**Syeda Jannata Farhin Ishal**

P1-P3, West Primary School (Bengali)

# The Bird

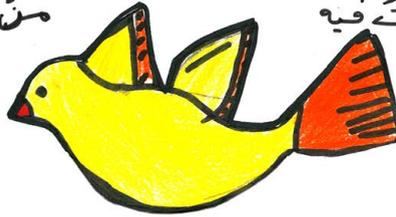


الطائر



ما أجملك  
ما أحسنك  
وقت السحر  
فوق الشجر  
في عجب  
في طرب  
زوالكزم  
من نيم

يا طائراً  
يا ببللاً  
غردومع  
والعب وطر  
الزهرمولك  
والورد مثلي  
أعطاك ربي  
ما أنتَ فيه



My poem is about a bird. This bird is a beautiful creature that is a gift from God. The bird makes music and can fly away from danger. For me the bird symbolises freedom.

My name is Nermeen and I am 9 years old. I came to Scotland in May 2018 with my brother, my sister and my mum and dad. We left Syria because of the war and we moved to Jordan. We are now safe in the UK and we are learning English at school. I have mixed feelings about being here. I miss my country and my culture but I am happy to be safe and learn new things in Scotland.

I like the way my poem sounds. I have split it into two parts and made it rhyme.

**Nermeen Jamal Horani**

P4-P6, St John Ogilvie Primary School (Arabic)

**WINNER  
P4-P6**

# Nigeria

HIGHLY  
COMMENDED



Ṣe o ranti ohun ti Nigeria je?  
ni a lagbara kún pẹ́lẹ́ a wọ́n eniyan  
re re ominira ranined gbagbo ogun  
pipa eniyan aaiṣe! ni a ko e kowa?  
ko si pe a ko ni a wọ́n eniyan pa  
ni ba yi? o so iwa su da bi idarad  
arọs  
awọ́n eniyan man wa i bi bio  
buru sulo ninu awọ́n eniyan miran  
mo ni se ti pe a ko e kowa a ti pa  
awo no mo i ko ko bi man  
kinini gbami i?  
simi ito kasiti tun se a carre

My name is Jamal and I am 11 years old. I was born in Nigeria and lived there for ten years. I have been in Scotland for almost a year. My first language is Yoruba, then English, Igbo, Hausa and a little French. Sometimes it's great to have so many languages – you can have so many different friends from different countries and you can understand what they are saying, even if it is bad!

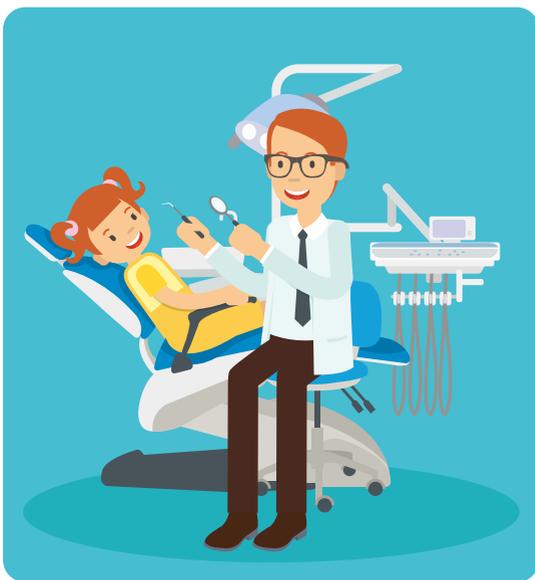
My poem is about how great and bad Nigeria can be. Nigeria is being corrupted by different governments. It makes me feel bad because Nigeria was a very great country. I hope Nigeria can see through all of these bad people and become great like it used to be.

I chose to write my poem in Yoruba. I used a lot of questions in my poem because I wanted to make it sound like I was questioning the government. I enjoyed writing this poem because it made me learn more about Nigeria.

**Jamal Oladunjoye**

P4-P6, St Charles's Primary School  
(Yoruba)

# Dentyści nie powinni prowadzić



Prawda to jest ponura gdy  
Dentyści robi się w zębie  
Dziura. Na biedne dzieci on  
Krzyczy  
Nie jadacie słodczy  
I myśli, że jego nie dotyczy

**HIGHLY  
COMMEDED**

My name is Lucja Lubanska. I am eight years old. I feel Scottish but I'm also half Polish. I only speak English at school, or when my English friends are playing with me. My mum and gran taught me to read and write in Polish.

My poem is about a dentist and he thinks it's alright if he eats sweets but the children don't. I chose to write about this because my brother and I missed our dentist appointment a few days ago. It's supposed to be a funny poem. Next time it will remind me and my brother to go to the dentist.

Even though it took me a long time to write my poem, I still enjoyed it. My poem rhymes and it was so hard to find words to rhyme.

**Lucja Lubanska**

P4-P6, St Charles's Primary School (Polish)

# The Moon

WINNER  
P7-S1

اکیلا جاند

کھو پورا کھو ادورا ہے۔ جاند بھی

کتنا اکیلا ہے۔ ستاروں

میں رہتا ہے۔

ہزاروں میں

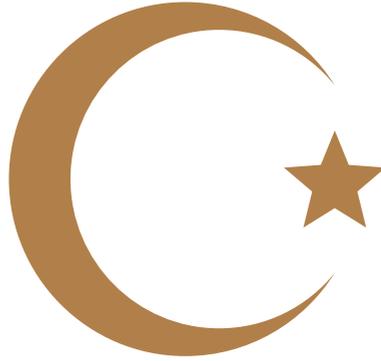
رہتا ہے۔ اداس

راتوں میں اکثر

بہاڑوں میں جب

جب کے روتا ہے۔ جاند بھی کتنا

اکیلا ہے۔



This is a poem about the moon written in Urdu.

The poem describes how lonely the moon feels in the sky all alone and how I feel about the moon in the dark, beautiful sky.

I was inspired to write this poem because my grandma always used to read me poems about moons before I went to bed when I was 5 or 6 years old. I feel the moon is lonely, it has no one to talk to but it still makes people smile. In my opinion, the most powerful phrase is when I describe the moon as incomplete. It's a sadness that the moon feels about itself that no one on Earth can really understand.

Writing this poem in Urdu made me more confident. I thought it was difficult because when I thought of an amazing phrase in English it would not sound quite right in Urdu. This taught me to think of descriptive language phrases in Urdu rather than trying to translate.

**Qainat Qamar**

P7-S1, Pollokshields Primary School (Urdu)

# Music

HIGHLY  
COMMENDED

## 音乐

音乐是个很美好的东西。

音乐是大胆的唱出来。

音乐可以让我跳舞。

音乐可以让人开心，

有时后会让人伤心，

因为音乐是回忆。

音乐是我的最爱。

Music is wonderful. It can make you sing and dance. It carries emotion and memories. Music is my favourite thing and that is why I chose to write about it.

My name is Kitty and I'm 11 years old. I'm originally from China and have been in Scotland for almost 4 years. I play piano and the violin. I sing and I also dance, so music is in my life quite a lot.

At first I tried to write my poem in English then translate it to Chinese, but it didn't sound right. So I started again in Chinese. When I did that it sounded better and flowed. This is something I have noticed about working with both languages. Translation can lose what you are trying to say.

**Kitty Zhu**

P7-S1, St James' Primary School (Mandarin Chinese)

# The Sea

WINNER  
S2-S3

وسلاماً أيتها البحر المريض أيتها البحر الذي  
أبحر من صور إلى إسبانيا فوق السفن أيتها البحر  
الذي يسقط هنا كالمدن ألف شبّاك على  
تابوتك اللّحلي مفتوح ولا أبحر فيها ساعراً  
تسند الفلّ أو ترفعه المرأة.



Peace be upon you, oh sea that is sick  
Oh sea that sailed from Tire to Spain  
over the ships  
Oh sea that falls from us from cities  
One thousand nets on your tabernacle  
And I shall not see therein a poet  
Who is supported by the idea of  
Raised by Women

I wrote this poem because the sea to me is as beautiful as women. In my country, Libya, we are surrounded by the sea in the place I come from. My town is called Binnghzai and this poem reminds me of home. Spain is mentioned because people from my country love Spain and we see it as a place of peace where there is no war, like in Libya. The women in Libya used to be very respected but now the war has caused lots of disrespect – we do not trust each other now and there are more lies which cause hurt. Women are scared of going out now in case they are terrorised or hurt or their children are hurt. The sea represents our dream, as women, and a peaceful place.

My mother tongue is Arabic and I have chosen words like the sea and cities because I love the sound of them when I say them in Arabic but I also like their meaning. I like the word city because it is full of culture and people. The sea sounds and looks beautiful as a word and as a symbol.

I mentioned that the sea is sick because it feels sad about why people hurt each other. This also represents my religion because there is a story in Islam where Moses was walking through the sea and the sea parted for him. People followed him for more peace.

**Shahd Dongo**

S2-S3, Craigmount High School (Arabic)

# Our Plastic City

HIGHLY  
COMMENDED



skály se rozpadnou  
vody vysychají  
zvířata zahynou  
a ani rostliny nezbyvají

chceme dýchat, však dýchat muset  
naše lesy, naše plíce  
krev proudí po tvém těle  
náš život, naše srdce.  
myšlenky a pocity,  
naše kořeny stromů  
kůže s očima  
pouhé mraky daj na oblohu  
slyšet a cítit  
to je šumění pramene  
a náš svět pouhá kapka z nebe

ty a já, životy  
my nejsme jen lidi, ale lesy  
jsme oceány a louky  
vše co roste a kvete,  
jsme krása a narušení  
naší malé země.

This is an abstract poem, to make you realise what we are and the disruption we do to our world. The meaning behind the poem is to appreciate what you have and what you're given, mentioning the damage we cause the Earth, how we take it for granted. The poem should make you think about the consequences behind our actions and how they will all affect our future. It should make you think about how important the little things in life are. Even though people are the ones to cause these disruptions, it has to be the people to make the change.

**Alex Mandova**

S2-S3, Bishopbriggs Academy (Czech)

# Homeland and Language

சுமியீ ஶமாதரி பமுணமயாண ஶமா  
சுமியீ ஶமாதரி ஶசம்ஶமாதரிசுனரி  
சுமியீ ஶமாதரியரில் ௨௦௦-ந்ஶும்அசு  
௨ஶ்ஶண ஓஶ்ஶஶஶ ஶமுஶ்ஶிஶ்ஶ  
சுனரிப்பஶ்ட ஶசுசாரிப்பு ஶ்ஶ்ஶ  
சுமியீ பேஅம் மசுசுனரிஶ்ஶ சூஶ.



In my poem I have written about my mother tongue – Tamil, as well as a bit about the part of India I'm from, Tamil Nadu, translating to Tamil country. Although I do enjoy living in Scotland, spending time with my friends, coming to school and spending time with the lovely people here, some part of me always longs to be back in India, my home for 3 years. I really want to be a part of the culture there. I always long to be there in the middle of a place bustling with the magic of cultures, traditions, colours, festivals and family, especially family. Even though they are almost half the world away I feel they do whatever they can to make me feel close to them and that makes them my world. Overall I feel very privileged and proud to be born and brought up in a Tamil family. I also feel really blessed to be a Tamil and I love the way I am.

**HIGHLY  
COMMENDED**

**Lovely Selwyn**

S2-S3, Bishopbriggs Academy (Tamil)

# Ztracena v překladu/ Lost in Translation

WINNER  
SENIOR  
PHASE



Každý den se sama sebe ptám,  
když v zrcadlo se podívám,  
jsem to stále já?

Myšlenky a pocity mé  
jsou ztraceny v překladu,  
někde mezi nimi je však nový svět.

Srdce mi silně buší,  
cítím ten tlak okolí,  
vždyť jen nemohu si vzpomenout  
na jedno krátké slovíčko,  
to pak na jazyku objeví se jak první  
jarní květ.

Pomalu se učím,  
nová slova, nové mravy,  
už nikdy nebudu stejná,  
ale přesto jsem to já.

My poem is called “Lost in translation” as it was inspired by my daily thoughts about speaking English. I came to Scotland for a year-long exchange and it has been a wild adventure so far, but my mother tongue is Czech so it is sometimes a bit overwhelming and I often find myself stuck in between the two languages, I just feel lost, because I am unable to express my thoughts and it all becomes so unclear as my head is filled with a mix of the two languages.

For me, coming to Scotland felt like starting from scratch, you have to make all these first impressions and it's almost as if I was creating a completely new person and this poem is describing exactly how it made me feel quite powerful. I also became more confident thanks to the fact that this new and very different version of myself is the very best version of myself, I finally feel like I am living up to my full potential and after a while I even learnt how to embrace my Czech accent. In conclusion, to the outer world it might seem that I am here to discover a new culture, but it was more about discovering the new me.

**Diana Procházková**

Senior Phase, George Heriot's School (Czech)

# No soy ficticia



No soy como la otra mujer que tu tenías  
O de esas con las que tu mantenías  
No soy ficticia, tampoco lo hago con malicia  
Solo soy real como el agua al coral  
Mantengo, enfrento, huyendo con el  
justo conocimiento  
Repito, extiendo, deposito, todo lo que  
no está escrito  
También me conocen como involucrada  
Pero tan solo soy amada  
Algunas lo clasifican como envidia  
Pero yo tan solo suelto rimas

For me, this poem represents myself as a person and also all other people who have been criticised for being themselves. Sometimes people have an idea about how you should be and they don't understand that you don't match what they want. They don't understand that those words can hurt you and you don't feel good enough when you're being your true self.

Girls in particular are faced with an 'ideal woman' in the media and other girls can be very cruel if you aren't like that. I don't understand why because we are all the same gender and should support each other.

Everyone should be free to be themselves.

**Alexandra Grimaldo**

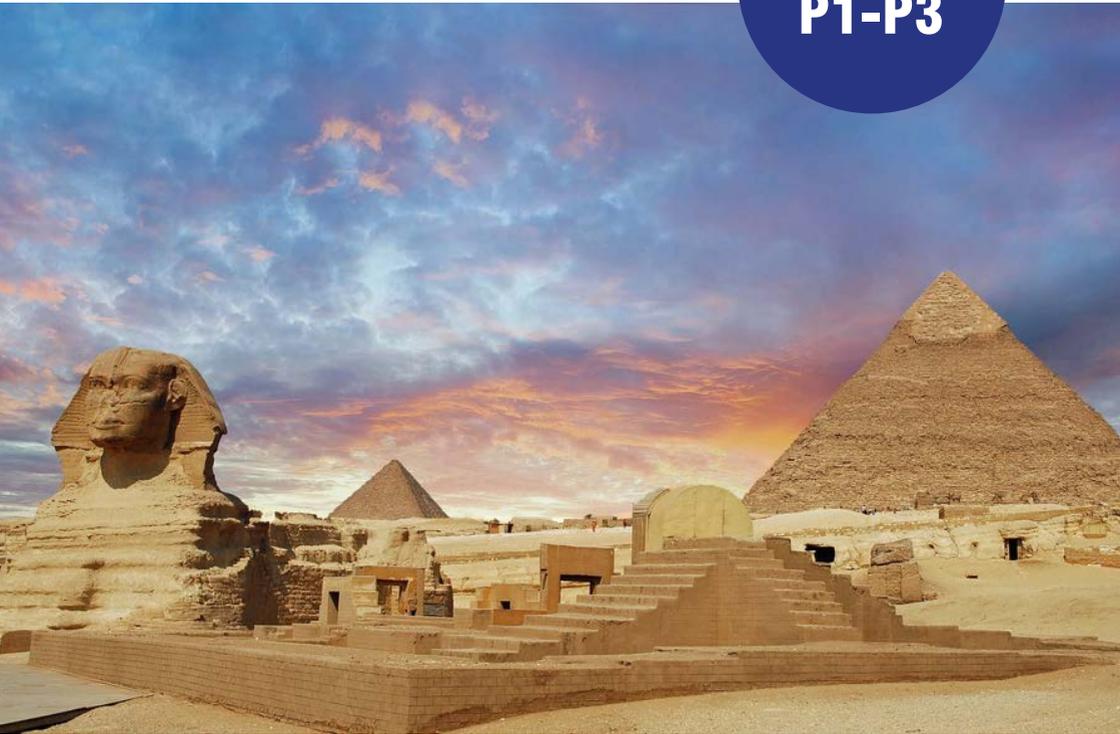
Senior Phase, Craigroyston Community  
High School (Spanish)

**HIGHLY  
COMMENDED**



# Egipto

**WINNER  
P1-P3**



El faraón es rojo como la lava  
El sacerdote es verde como la hierba  
Los nobles son azules como la lluvia  
Los escribas son amarillos como el sol  
El guerrero es negro como carbon  
Los artesanos son rosas como una rosa  
El campesino es marrón como la tierra  
Los esclavos son blancos como nieve

I have been learning about ancient Egyptian society to put all the people in order, this is called the hierarchy and I really enjoyed it.

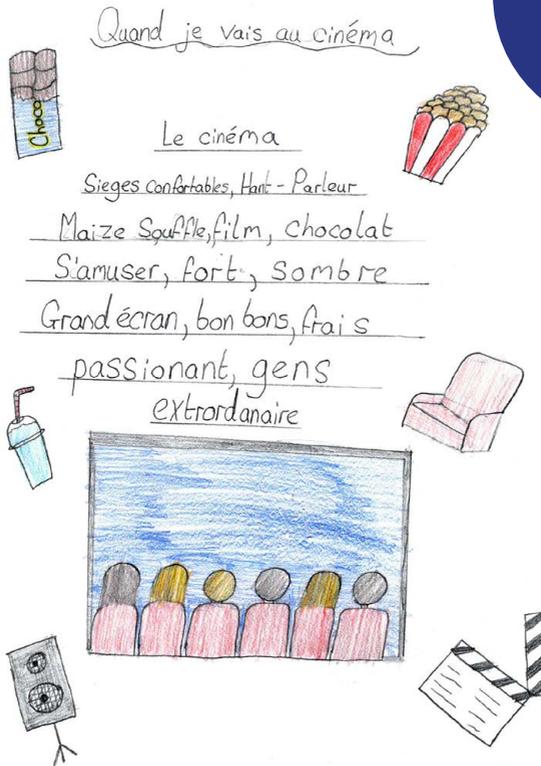
I have used colours to compare them to different things, e.g. the pharaoh is red like lava.

**Anna Inglis**

P1-P3, St Aloysius College Junior School  
(Spanish)

# Quand je vais au cinéma

WINNER  
P4-P6



My poem's theme is the cinema. I chose this because I love going to the cinema. I represented this theme using different describing words. I chose the title because all the words in the poem describe the things I usually see in the cinema. My poem is related to the French studies I am doing about the different buildings there. I have written my poem from many different perspectives in the cinema. In my opinion, the most powerful line is: Grand écran, bon bons, frais, because it feels to me like a thing that a famous French person would say. The overall message of my poem is to go to the cinema and have fun! It was quite difficult writing the poem because I had to translate all the words and write them down twice, but it was fun so I would possibly do something like this again.

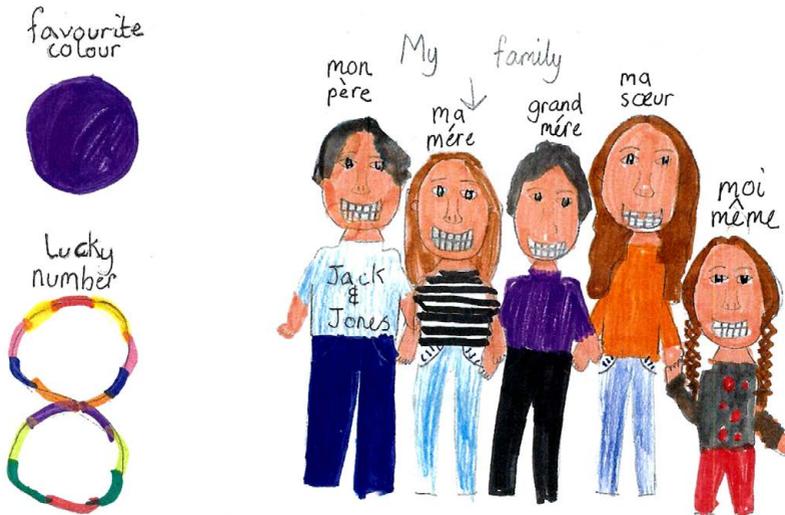
**Holly Price**

P4-P6, Doune Primary School (French)

# Bonjour

HIGHLY  
COMMEDED

Bonjour Je m'appelle Milly.  
Bonjour Ma famille est ma mère,  
mon père, ma sœur et grand-mère.  
Bonjour J'ai dix ans.  
Bonjour Mon anniversaire est la neuf août.  
Bonjour Ma couleur préférée est violet.  
Bonjour Ma chiffre porte-bonheur est huit  
Au revoir, A bientôt



My poem theme is me and my family. I chose this because I love my family and I wanted to write about them. I decided to draw pictures of things in my poem I like. I drew an 8 because it is my lucky number. I drew my family because they are important to me. I drew a purple circle because purple is my favourite colour. I loved writing this poem because I felt so happy and excited because I had always wanted to take part in a poetry competition. Plus this is the first time I wrote a poem in French and also I felt very proud writing it in French because I had never done anything like that before.

**Milly Russell**

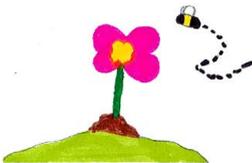
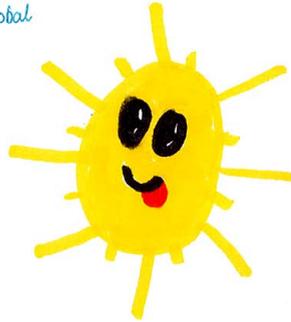
P4-P6, St George's Primary School (French)

# La tierra: antes, ahora y mañana !

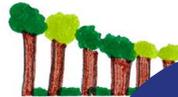
El aire era fresco  
Los bosques duraban siglos  
Las calles eran limpias  
Los animales eran felices  
Pero eso fue antes del calentamiento global

Ahora el aire no es tan fresco  
Los bosques no son tan grandes  
Las calles no están tan limpias  
Los animales no son tan felices  
Pero podemos intentar terminar esto

Podemos recoger la basura  
Usar energía solar  
No cortar árboles  
Mantener a las abejas vivas para  
Poliniz' las flores  
Podemos terminar esto si trabajamos juntos



Orla Kelly



**WINNER  
P7-S1**

I wanted to write a poem about the environment because I want to tell people how we damage the earth. I also say how we can help and if we do it together we could stop global warming and harming the earth.

I wrote it in Spanish because we're talking about climate change in Spanish. We are also learning how we can help. I want to spread the word so we can stop.

**Orla Kelly**

P7-S1, St Aloysius College Junior School (Spanish)

# Tràighean Cuaraidh

HIGHLY  
COMMEDED

The sea brushes the sand  
The sky  
The land  
The sun is a citrine  
The clock ticks  
Minutes pass but you want to make your time here last  
The sun sinks beneath the waves and the moon shows her silver face  
The stars twinkle in the sky or maybe a shooting star going by  
The seals cry like wolves to the moon and the waves are like a soft tune  
So few words for such a special place full of its remaining grace  
Tha an tràigh fhathast brèagha bho an Fhaoilleach gu an Dùbhlachd  
bho Diluain gu Didòmhnaich a h-uile h-uair a thide  
Dorcha no aotrom an nuair a thèid na ràithean seachad  
sin far a bheil mo chridhe

For this poem I used Gaelic and English. I used English because it is the first language I ever learned and is what I use to write in all the time and feel most easy writing in. The reason I wrote in Gaelic is because it is one of the languages people use on the place I live in and love. I also wrote in Gaelic because it was the first language of my grandfather who used to teach me Gaelic. I wrote in Gaelic to thank him for teaching me.

**Melody Elizabeth Clark-Want**

P7-S1, Port Charlotte Primary School  
(Gaelic and English)



# 周り花見中の答え

## *Mawari Hanami-chuu no Kotae*

### The Solution in the Surrounding Cherry Blossoms



Ima, kono sora no shita de  
Watashi wa mi wo tsukatte mite  
Mawari wo mite  
Kokoro ga dokidoki kore chuu ni  
Mi de hitotsu ki wo mite  
Zenbu no sekai wo mieru  
Dakara, kono chikyuu wo kaetai  
Mieru no wa, mina-san no aru shinpai  
Demo shakai wa kore ni 'dame' to iu  
Watashi wa 'hoka no hito wa komaru tame' to iu  
Shakai wa kimitachi no yume wo kiru  
Kore wo shimattara, warui sekai wo tsukutte natte iru

Hanami dake wo shite iru chuu  
Fuku kaze wa sakura wo ochiru  
Nanika kangaete kotae ga kuru  
Hitobito dandan motto iru  
Mainichi jinsei de watashi arukurashii  
Hito wa tsuyoi hito wo tadoru hō ga ii  
Komaru no to mondai wo kamawanai  
Atama wo sagattara, itsumo zettai ni daijōbu  
Komaru no ga nai shi, genki ni naru  
Demo sono aida ni hoka no hito  
wa ippai komaru no ga aru

Nakunaru shi, nakunaru, shi, nakenai shi,  
tsuyoi mono ga naide naru  
Warui jinsei, tsuyokunaku, komaru no hito ga  
shippai suru  
Hidoi, kanemochi ga katsuo  
Fukōsei dakedo jinsei da  
Demo aruteido ni kono kisoku wo kaerarerun da!  
Seka wa fusei ga ippai aru kedo

Kono koto mo mata kaerarerun da yo  
Kimi wa ii hito no yō ni iru  
Demo hoka no hito wa 'kimi no kutsu ni tatenai'  
Unmei to jinsei wa hontō ni fukōsei da ne

Saa, kono ki ni mite iru chuu  
Hitotsu sakurazaki wa shippai ni orite ochiru  
Watashi wa te de ha wo kacchi suru  
Kyō kara sekai wo kaeru  
Iya, ima kara sekai wo kaeru

This poem portrays the importance of the current surroundings one sees and understanding the injustices of society. I am not Japanese, but I understand that British people like me have a different view. As for me, one's surroundings are really important and special things. I have Asperger's Syndrome, so I see the world differently. But sometimes I couldn't even possibly see the world from your point of view. This poem is from the perspective of someone with a 'different brain' but with some 'Japanese feeling' in it.

**Emily Feerick**

S2-S3, Bearsden Academy (Japanese)

HIGHLY  
COMMEDED

# Flocons de neige à Paris

En décembre il fait très froid  
Les gens portent leurs chapeaux et  
leurs écharpes  
La Seine gèle

Quand la lune blanche brille  
Et tout le monde est au chaud dans  
leurs lits  
Chutes de neige

C'est beau les lumières  
Très beau !  
Un scintillant Tour Eiffel  
Et puis s'en aller



Our poem is all about when it snows in Paris, focusing on snowflakes especially.

We related to this poem because of our recent project in class. We had to 'plan' a trip to Paris and talk about Paris's landmarks. Since it's nearly Christmas as well, in class we have looked at winter.

One of our favourite lines was 'et puis s'en aller'. It shows that snow can appear, you get excited and then it just disappears like it was never there.

We enjoyed finding new words in French.

**Brooke Braidwood and Chloe Gibb**

S2-S3, Graeme High School (French)

# Liberté, égalité, fraternité

**WINNER  
SENIOR  
PHASE**



Le monde semble parfait  
Mais le rumeurs se propagent en parlait  
Prenons la France comme modèle  
Ils ont des règles traditionnelles  
Le slogan dit „liberté, égalité, fraternité”  
Parce que les citoyens ont besoin de innocuité  
Mais dans la société d’aujourd’hui  
Les gens ne se sentent toujours pas gratuit  
Nous sommes confrontés à des problèmes  
d’immigration  
Alors malheureusement vient la discrimination  
C’est l’opinion de la nation  
Il n’y a pas que de l’imagination  
Le racisme est aussi un facteur grave  
Mais la victime doit être brave  
Cela peut prendre quelques secondes  
Que sela se produit partout dans le monde  
Mais rappelez-vous un mot: égalité  
Car traiter les autres différemment est illegalité

My poem focuses on the different problems people have to face in today’s society. I have chosen to write about this because we are learning about these topics in Advanced Higher French and I think that more people should know the consequences this can have on people. I have tried to include several examples, like racism and discrimination throughout the poem to reinforce the impact this has on people’s lives.

The title of the poem ‘liberté, égalité, fraternité’ is the national motto of France. I have picked this title to reflect on the fact that my poem focuses on the problems in France, but in real life, this happens all over the world.

I think the last two lines are the most important as, after all the horrible examples, these lines tell a deep message, to treat people equally as everyone deserves the same chances.

Writing a poem in French was very difficult but at the same time it was also quite interesting trying to find rhyming words and working out what to include.

**Boglarka Balla**

Senior Phase, Graeme High  
School (French)

# Au Soleil

HIGHLY  
COMMENDED



Elle était allongée sur le lit d'hôpital, regardant dehors le temps pluvieux, ne sachant pas ce que l'avenir lui réservait.

Le cancer l'avait entourée comme l'univers du monde entier.

Elle ne savait pas si elle retrouverait une vie normale. Ses souvenirs sont remplis de sourires et de larmes.

Elle se souvient de son dernier anniversaire, de Noël et du dernier jour d'école, en se demandant si elle aura l'occasion de revivre ces moments.

Le lendemain, elle court dehors au soleil, sachant qu'elle l'a fait, sachant qu'elle peut revivre, librement.

Aujourd'hui, le bonheur l'a entourée comme l'univers du monde entier.

My poem is about a young girl in hospital fighting against cancer and it highlights her thoughts before knowing that she has recovered.

The theme of this poem is the idea of the uncertainty in the girl's mind thinking if she will make it or not. I represented these by repeating the phrase that finished as "comme l'univers du Monde entier" which emphasised what her life is all about at a certain time.

The overall message in my poem is that you should never give up and always think positive no matter what the problem is.

**Simi Singh**

Senior Phase, Graeme High School (French)

# Acknowledgements

SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages is thankful to all the people and organisations who gave their support and collaboration to Mother Tongue Other Tongue 2018- 19:

Juliette Lee  
University of Strathclyde  
Scottish Poetry Library  
Jackie Kay  
Manchester Metropolitan University  
Routes Into Languages North West

The wonderful teachers and pupils of Scotland  
And anyone else that we missed...

...Daaly, dakujem, danke, dziękuję, gracias, grazie, merci, obrigado, shukran,  
shukriya, spasibo, thanks, xièxiè.



Editing of poems and commentaries has been kept to a minimum in order to preserve originality and authenticity.

