

Year 7 & 8 Category Runner-up

What matters

Samantha Wilson - St Michael's Collegiate School

What matters

Not the gold that gleams hollow,

Not the names they tried to shape you into,

Nor the neatly dressed lies they feed,

Not perfection, not their idea.

What matters is the voice between storms,

The courage to speak when your voice shakes.

The softness you kept when the world threw stones,

To fight the battle you didn't start.

It's the beat in your chest that only you can hear,

Yet you dance.

The uncontrollable grin when you have done well,

The pure laughter when your people are around.

What matters is holding your younger self with both hands,

You were never too much,

Too loud, or too curious,

You were simply becoming.

Not the world's answer,

But yours.

You have chosen to stay.

Forever blooming.