



# Years 5-6 Category Winner

LOUIE MERCIER – RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## The Birth of Democracy

Long ago, in Athens proud and fair  
A city of wealth, and power to share  
A man named Cleisthenes had all the power of Greece at his disposal  
But rather than spend it on war or greed, he made a fair proposal  
A system never thought of by king or queen  
And to it, all eyes looked bright and keen.

As all things are, it was but young  
It was still in progress, it was still not done  
It stood, as one free and fair  
That amid a world of war and pain, there was something worthy of care  
And for a century Athens stood proud and strong  
Expanding, as its people danced in laughter and song.

But then, from the deserts of the east  
A new power arrived on Greek shores, and the sun was on their breasts  
But Athens stood fast, they would not easily fall  
Not bow down in fear, not become a dishonoured thrall.  
And, through blood, and swords, and shining spears  
Victory was to the Athenians, as their enemies fled in tears

Some looked at democracy as a fatal flaw  
A cruel realm of slavery and tyranny, was all that they saw  
And so, war was made, in the land of Greece  
And blood was shed, it seemed that there would never be peace  
This time, the enemy was much more determined and bold  
The Spartans attacked, and soon much land they controlled

And so, Athens would finally reel in defeat  
Its army destroyed, and its allies in retreat

Though in the Greek world it was eventually swept away by the sands of time  
It was not to vanish forever, up the stairs to rebirth it would slowly climb  
Through revolutions, reforms, and the will of those in power  
It would reach the top of the world tower  
And today, despite so much death and change

Democracy still stands, and it is not to derange.  
So many fought for Democracy, so many would perish  
Yet they were martyrs with cause, democracy above all they did cherish  
For rather than let one ruler, by birthright or by force  
That would lead them to ruin, take the worst course  
The commoners, the people at the very bottom  
They would decide, who would make them weak and who would make them blossom  
And even though it is flawed, its rules sometimes bendable and broken  
It is free, where all are equal, and they matter, no matter what is spoken.