



**2020 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS  
CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST  
DIVISION 2 – GRADES 7 TO 8**

**DARWIN LI, GRADE 7  
UPPER CANADA COLLEGE  
FIRST PLACE**



**I AM A FREE BIRD**

Feathers are clipped and claws are tied  
Unable to fly, we cannot hide  
Trapped in cages by the chains of pain  
With despair we cry in vain

My home, once a fruitful land  
Now to darkness it feeds on demand  
With dust and flame it sprouts the rage  
Through shriveled soil it forms the cage

Singing no more, we've lost our voices  
Although unspeakable, I must make my choices

Over clouds and under stars,  
Away from the wicked, I soar afar  
Peace, justice, freedom are all I seek  
I chase the Sun, I race the Moon  
With hope, I will not stop, I will not break

Then comes a new day,  
A dash of red, a hint of blue  
Birds of all kinds, so many hues  
Rolling hills, white shores, a far green country  
A new land, a new home, yet cage-free  
Zephyr's warm whisper feel my joy -  
I am a free bird