



**2021 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS  
CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST  
DIVISION 2 – GRADES 7 TO 8**

**JOO-EUN LEE, GRADE 8  
JOHN KNOX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
(OAKVILLE)  
THIRD PRIZE**



**A GLASS OF HOPE**

A little girl running away from home wheezing, her lungs squeezing,  
Her tear-stained cheeks and scratchy dry throat  
All she sees is that she's now alone  
And where she is, she trembles 'cause she does not know

Her head spins, a rollercoaster, she doesn't understand  
Why faith, skin, opinions, her gender, her face  
Allow blood to trickle and spill on innocent hands  
Now all she wants is to escape the land she once deemed safe

She's made it to an unfamiliar place  
Where she wishes to shrink and hide  
Her family is now undone lace  
Foreign words suffocate, she's become all dried

Her thoughts roll the film of time  
When peace seemed like a certainty  
When life seemed so stable and fine  
Something proved wrong, oh so painfully

A blur, her eyes can't keep up, too fast  
Something drags her body back into the present  
Where feet stand on shards of glass  
While she prays she makes it to adolescence

What will happen in the future, no one knows  
Her scarred hands grasp around a rough thinned rope  
She can't ignore her heart, bruised from countless blows  
But she quenches her thirst in a glass of hope