

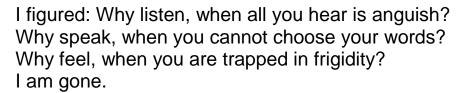
2018 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

DIVISION 3 - GRADES 9 TO 12

SERENA HABIB, GRADE 10 SENATOR O'CONNOR COLLEGE SCHOOL SECOND PRIZE

SAFE

I cannot remember the last time
I heard a sound, spoke a word, or felt a touch.
I am numb.



Suddenly, you take me far away. From my family whose bodies were waiting for me at home. I am alone.

If I listen, I will not hear my mother's laughter.

If I speak, I will not be understood.

If I feel, I will only feel the emptiness in my heart.

I am scared.

Then you stay.

Your voice, welcoming, eventually penetrates my wall.

Your house, even in winter, warms me to my toes.

I dream it is destroyed. I awake and I am still here. I am hopeful.

One day, I hear you singing a tune I used to know.

I find myself joining in, unsteady but unafraid.

I make a snow angel in your backyard.

My imprint sparkles in the sun as I bask in it, tears filling my eyes as I realize I am safe.

