

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF EDUCATION

2022
LITERARY
MAGAZINE

KHAYYAM

MELBOURNE
SENIOR
CAMPUS



VISUAL ART
CREATIVE WRITING
POETRY
TEXT RESPONSES

2022



COVER ARTWORK BY

LEYAAN KAPISIZ, YEAR 11



This artwork was a custom made order for 2013 Masterchef finalist Samira El Khafir. Over 20 hours were spent in painting this view of Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, using oil paints. The painting stands at a size of 60x90cm.

TIMELAPSE BELOW;



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Dear readers of Khayyam,

**“Live in the sunshine, swim the sea,
drink the wild air.”**

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Congratulations to all students whose writing was selected and published in the 2022 issue of Khayyam .

This year our literary magazine Khayyam offered our students at AIA the opportunity to write about the theme of LIFE. The writing is real and alive with commentary from amazing poetry, thoughtful reflections and creative narrative.

We hope that you enjoy reading the pieces that were selected and thank all students and teachers who participated this year.

Also thankyou to Ms. Wanida for her wonderful display of all work presented in the magazine.

Kind regards and happy reading.

Ms. Irene Kakoulis | Editor of Khayyam - 2022

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Omer Khayyam

The Moving Finger writes;
and, having writ, Moves on:
nor all thy Piety nor

Wit Shall lure it
back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all thy Tears wash out a
Word of it.

was a
Persian polymath,
mathematician,
astronomer,
philosopher,
and poet.

Friendships and life

Friends are like family.
They comfort you
when you feel blue.
They take care of you
when something bad
or scary happens.

Friends make sure you feel noticed
and you're not trapped in a bubble.

Friends make you happy
when you feel down.
They cheer you up
and make you feel appreciated.

Friends make you know you're important,
they make you feel motivated.
Friends make your life complete.

Friendships take care of your mental health,
make sure you don't go insane.
Some impact on your physical health
but that's usually powerful friendships.

Friendships prevent you
from isolation and loneliness.
They make sure you aren't
neglected or miserable.

A true friend
will always be there for you.

Aalia Rizvi 7B



A CAT'S LIFE

A cat is white.
It is wintertime.
It's in a in a living room.
It is warm.
It's wearing a sock.
It is sitting on a comfy couch.
It's watching Harry Potter.
It is eating tuna.

by Mallak Dabdoub 6A

LIFE OF A YELLOW DUCK

During summertime.
Outside by a lake.
It is sunny and warm.
It's wearing a checked blanket.
Sitting on a grey chair.
Watching Sponge Bob Square Pants.
It is eating sunflower seeds.
It is eating tuna.

by Mallak Dabdoub 6A

AN ARTIST PAINTING AN ORANGE LEAF

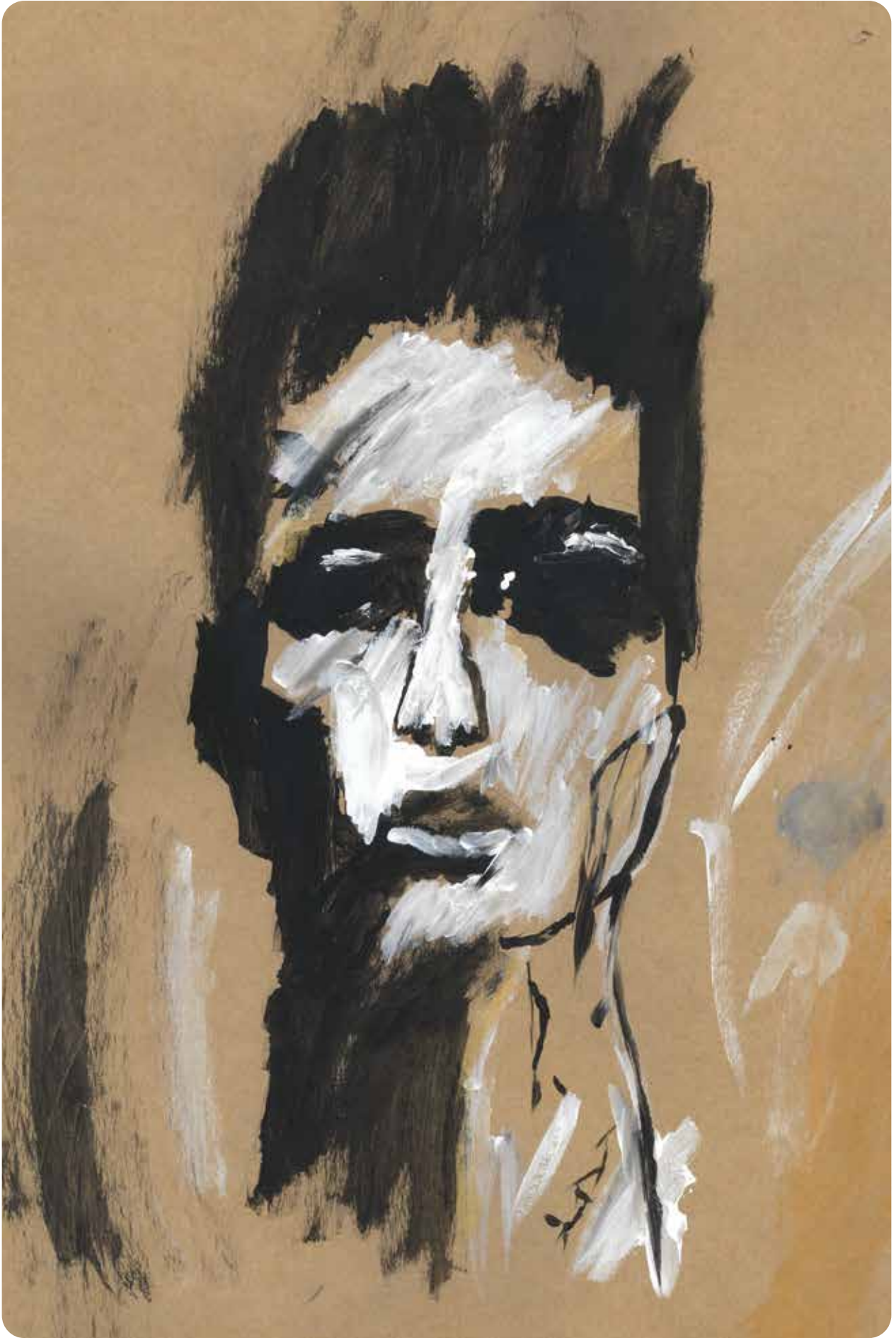
During autumn.
In an art room.
It is warm and cosy.
Wearing a painting apron.
Sitting on a brown wooden stool.
Watching Harry Potter.
Eating hot noodles.

by Mallak Dabdoub 6A

A BLUE FISH

In summertime.
In the living room in a fishbowl.
It is warm.
It's wearing a polka dot bowtie.
In a fishbowl on a coffee table.
Watching a movie.
Eating food for pet fish

by Mallak Dabdoub 6A



HASSAN CHEHNAH, YEAR 9B

Nasma
Omer!



ARTWORK | NASMA OMER, YEAR 9B

Life

A KNIGHT

A knight is grey.
He is Winter.
In a castle.
He is dull.
A knight is an amour.
A large ominous door.
He is an adventure show.
A knight is mashed potatoes.

by Nael Khatri 6A

GORILLA

A gorilla is brown.
He is summertime.
In a zoo.
He is sunny.
A pair of pants .
A tree branch.
Zoo show.
A banana.

by Zakariya Saad 6A

A BEAST

A beast is red.
He is Summer.
In the wild.
He is a tornado.
He is tough skin.
A big door.
He is an adventure show.
He is bitter coffee.

by Nael Khatri 6A

A WITCH

A witch is green.
She is winter.
In her haunted house.
She is windy.
A long witch hat.
A broom stick.
She is dark and grim.
A big piece of chicken bone.

by Mahnoor Kiani 6A

A PRINCE

A price is silver.
He is Spring.
In a luxurious room.
He is sunny.
He is bathroom clothes.
He is an adventure show.
He is sweet chocolate.

by Nael Khatri 6A

A SINGER

A singer is white.
She is the summertime.
On a stage.
She is sunny.
A singer is high heels.
A microphone.
The Grammy Awards.
A nice crispy chicken.

by Asiya Badali 6A

HAIKU-TANKA POEMS

TIGER

Small shadow sprinting
Across a big yellow field
While the moon shines bright
And dandelions flowing
In the darkness of the night

THE WORLD'S CREATURES


Many creatures live
In this big world, in forests
Small and short, in trees
On land, fluffy and scaley
The world is full of beauty

FAST FOOD

Crispy, salty fries
Big, juicy hamburger and
My precious soda

AALIA RIZVI 7B





life
my
way

Life is temporary.
Live it the way you want.
Life is not permanent.
Have a go and see where it leads you.

Life is a painting,
You only get to see it once.
Paint it your own way.
Life is a school,
You will learn new things along the way.
Life is a puzzle,
You understand it when all the pieces are put together.



Life Poem



LIFE WITH THE 'Lights Out'

"MUM!", yelled John at his mum because the video game he was playing turned off. John's mum Mary was working in the kitchen making pizza, but the lights went out. John's sister Sarah was in her room looking at the sunset, but her phone stopped working when she tried to take a picture. The electricity went out on the whole farm and the family was very worried.

John's dad Mike, was coming back home from work and was hoping to watch a movie when he got back. As Mike arrived at home, Mary, opened the door and told him that the electricity was out. Mike was only thinking about watching a movie when he just realised that he forgot to pay the water and electricity bills. Mike and Mary were very worried that they would be kicked out of their house.

Once the night came, Sarah placed candles for light in the night and once the morning came, a man was at the door. The man was the electric and water company guy that told Mike and his family if they don't pay the bills by next morning, they would be kicked out of their house.

"I WANT TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES!" yelled Jhon.

Mike was trying to find a way to pay the bills but without electricity, he couldn't send the payments online. John told his dad that he could go to pay

them at the company by car, but Mike told him that he forgot to put fuel in the car. The family were out of options, so they were forced out of their house and on the streets.

The family was on the streets and got their belongings such as a blanket, food, water, games, buckets, and cushions to sleep on the streets. Once the morning came, Mike and John cleaned cars to earn money to get the house back. 3 days ago, they were relaxing at home but 3 days later they were on the streets working to get the house back. When they had enough money to get the house back from working for 3 weeks, they went to the company to convince them to get the house back. After a long talk with the company, they finally got their house back.

Once they got their house back, they got builders to build a small turbine so that they don't have to pay the electricity bill. John and his family are finally back doing their usual things –

John playing video games, Mary making food, Sarah looking at the view and finally Mike watching the baggers get up on the TV.

Ahmad Allouche 6B

I hope this isn't my last
For the future I do not know
My thought is in the past
There is only one way to go.
Our futures are unknown
Our pasts we won't be able to relive
Life is something I want to own
The first step is to forgive.

It's okay to make a mistake
From it you will improve
What really matters is what you take
To become a person that you approve.

Stand up for yourself with courage
even if it means you're alone
Don't fill yourself with discouragement
Or you will be left unknown.
True happiness is found
When you find your purpose
Sadness won't be around
To make you nervous.



COVID LIFE

Covid life has
Gotten harder and
Stressful now it's
Much better, every
Person has worn a mask.

When we wore
masks, couldn't breathe
and it got stuffy.
Wearing masks
also strained our breath.

This has restricted
us from playing
sports because
we couldn't breath in air.

BY AHMED USMAN 7B



Rise

it's my life

The clock *reads* quarter past two
Sun shines bright while the sky, blue
Flames have risen from *stones*
Brutality and ferocity crushes *bones*
Tree logs crying for help on the lawn
The crows and stray cats start to mourn
A *moth* has risen, we are stun
Life taken, blood is on the sun
Trying to sleep hearing sounds
Chatter and laughter, a drum pounds
A single house lays on top of a hill
A thief in the night has *arisen* to kill

ALEISHA TALEB 100

My Migration Story

This is the story of my life as a new migrant in Australia. We came through the family and skilled stream. I have 2 siblings, a 20-year-old sister and a 16-year-old brother. I'm 11 now.

BACKGROUND INFO:

I was born in Brisbane, Australia in 2011 but had to move to Bangladesh due to my brother's eczema and many other reasons; mainly to create a bond with our grandparents since that's where they lived at the time. I grew up there. We lived there for about 9 years. Although it wasn't the first time for my parents, as they grew up and got married there. Bangladesh wasn't the best, but it wasn't the worst, mainly because of all the friends and families there. My parents had booked the tickets to Australia around 3 years ago before we came here, but it soon got cancelled. But after a while, we were able to book tickets to Australia!

MY LIFE IN AUSTRALIA :

The "saying goodbye" was harder than expected, I had to leave my cat (male, name - Doreo) with my grandma and grandpa (Dad's side). There was a lot of crying of course, but it was expected. The flight was good, but the quarantine hotel... THE BEST! It was amazing! We stayed at the Meriton Suites hotel in Sydney for 2 weeks. We stayed in one of my grandma's houses for a few months until we were able to find a place to call home. It was great. We went to many parks and malls and ate a lot of ice cream and sandwiches (that's because there weren't any malls, parks or ice cream in Bangladesh! Actually, there was ice cream, but it was just ice, not cream.

PROBLEMS:

There were a few of course. But a few main ones I can remember: first was that I broke my right hand (again) from falling from the monkey bars in a park. LESSON LEARNED: do not try something you haven't tried in a LONG time.

But a few weeks after, me and my mum went to get a sling for my arm. When my dad picked us up, we found out that we got a house. At some point my parents were looking for a house and we got a wonderful one, and Alhamdulillah we were able to afford it. We had many housewarming parties.

But then the main problem came... SCHOOL! School was horrible. I had a lot of anxiety for basically everything. It was VERY different to my Bangladeshi school! But I was able to land a few good friends. One of them being Hana. We still are great friends. Anyways, I cried so much every single morning. I even needed a therapist. I only had one session. I wasn't comfortable enough to continue our sessions, so I stopped going. But the school I went to (King Khalid) had a school therapist. She was amazing. Sometimes I would just sit in her room and draw until I was ready to go back in the classroom. But after a lot of crying and skipping school, I was able to go. Thanks to my awesome and patient parents.

I'm currently still in Melbourne and school is good. I have great teachers who help me become better at my studies every day. Now that I'm at the senior campus of Australian International Academy, I feel a lot better because I have a lot of friends and my brother is in the same school as me. Alhamdulillah I have this amazing life, I have so many things to be grateful for in my LIFE.

**NEYAMAH SAKEENA ZAMAN
YEAR 6B**

Life

BY JOANNE DERBAS 8D

“What is the meaning of life?” Life relates to the importance of living or existence in general. There are multiple other questions that are constantly asked, “Why are we here?” “What is life all about?” or “What is the purpose of existence?” There are many answers to these questions from many different cultural and religious backgrounds. But the real question we should be asking ourselves is “What is the meaning of my life?”

There will be many moments in life where you question your existence. Life is so damn hard and difficult for every one of us. We all have our own tests and problems that we must deal with. There will always be days where we feel depressed and so alone in the world. Sometimes we cry and other times we zone out and don't feel anything. Occasionally, we feel like we could do so much but are restricted by our own mind and second guess ourselves. Sometimes we feel like the world has lost all its colour.

But other times you feel over the moon and love life, there are moments you will never forget and wish you could stop time so you could live in that moment forever. We should also remember that life will have its ups and downs and that living in your head will get you nowhere. When times like this happen do not give up. Don't degrade yourself we are all special and unique in our own ways.

There are many downhill moments in our life but those are the most important because that's when life teaches us the greatest lessons, we should feel free and not restricted, we only live once and should make the most of it. As Eminem said, “The truth is you don't know what is going to happen tomorrow. Life is a crazy ride, nothing is guaranteed.”

There are numerous people in the world that reflect on their life during their lifespan and one of those reflections is done by those simple glances in the mirror. That decides whether what you seem to be or what you want to be is real or simply an image showing you something or someone you don't recognise.

So, I'm going to ask this question again, “What is the meaning of my life?” or your life. Will you just sit there wondering where you went wrong or will you step out of your head, stop doubting yourself and make the limited moments in your life worth reliving. Because no one is going to live your life, it is your choice to make and the only thing in your way is yourself. Don't be someone you're not, just for somebody else's sake. Make sure the next time you look in the mirror it is you standing in front of you, and make sure you are comfortable in your own skin and love who you are inside and out. Most importantly make sure you are loving life and living it to the fullest.



HASSAN CHEHNAH 9A

LIGHTS OUT LIFE OUT

All lights turn off. "What? What's happening?" said Cyprus. It was a dark night and it was very late. Cyprus was hearing a lot of things, but he didn't think much of it. His parents were out very late for some reason and since they usually they came home early, he was confused. "BANG!!!" came a big crashing sound came from outside, "MUM, DAD" yelled Cyprus. His parents had crashed their car onto the garage door and there was a big black van standing behind them.

"Mum, why did you and dad take so long?" said Cyprus.

"Because in the restaurant the lights kept turning on and off and everyone was getting annoyed, so we all decided to leave" replied mum.

Later that night, when everyone was asleep, mum was cleaning the kitchen and saw that the lights flashing. She realised that dad forgot to pay the electricity bill for the month so they had no electricity.

When mum called her sister the next day, her sister offered Cyprus's family to stay over at her house but mum declined the offer. Her sister asked her what it was like living without no electricity and mum's response was that 'you can't use any stoves, ovens, internet, microwave, and a lot more' and that's how life is with no electricity.

ALI ABOU-EID 6B

Life perspective

Life is a single word with many different connotations and meanings. Above all, life is about more than just being; it's also about how one defines that existence. As a result, it's vital to think about life from several angles.

Philosophers, academics, poets, and authors have written extensively about what it means to live and, more significantly, what are the essential elements that characterise one's existence. This exercise has, of course, been done in a variety of ways. While philosophers sought to understand the meaning and purpose of people's lives, poets and authors recorded the diversity of life at various times. As a result, life is likely to be more than exciting.

My perception of life is an endless cycle of happy days, sad days, and neutral days. The happy days are when I get good news, where I go to the gym and work on myself, where I do something good for another. The sad days are when I feel like I haven't lived my day to the fullest, the days where I don't benefit myself or others.

Ali Elnahrawy 10D



LEYAAN KAPISIZ, YEAR 11

BE KIND IN LIFE

Let kindness gleam in the words you speak
Spread love and block negativity
Be at peace with your mind
And surround yourself with positivity

Height distinction, tall or short
Coloured skin, black or white
Both genders female and male
Everyone simply has a right

One hundred and ninety-five countries
Seven large continents
Eight billion women and men
Re-unite with confidence

Numerous kinds of beliefs
Interesting cultural traditions
Everyone is equal and alike
Freedom isn't a permission

Open your cleansed heart
Always believe in your soul
Be in high spirits
Everything is in your control

Show love and mercy
Appreciate your existence
The lord made you for a reason
Ignore the demons, keep distance

Guide your friends and peers
Give warm-hearted greetings
Make mistakes and learn
Overall we are human beings

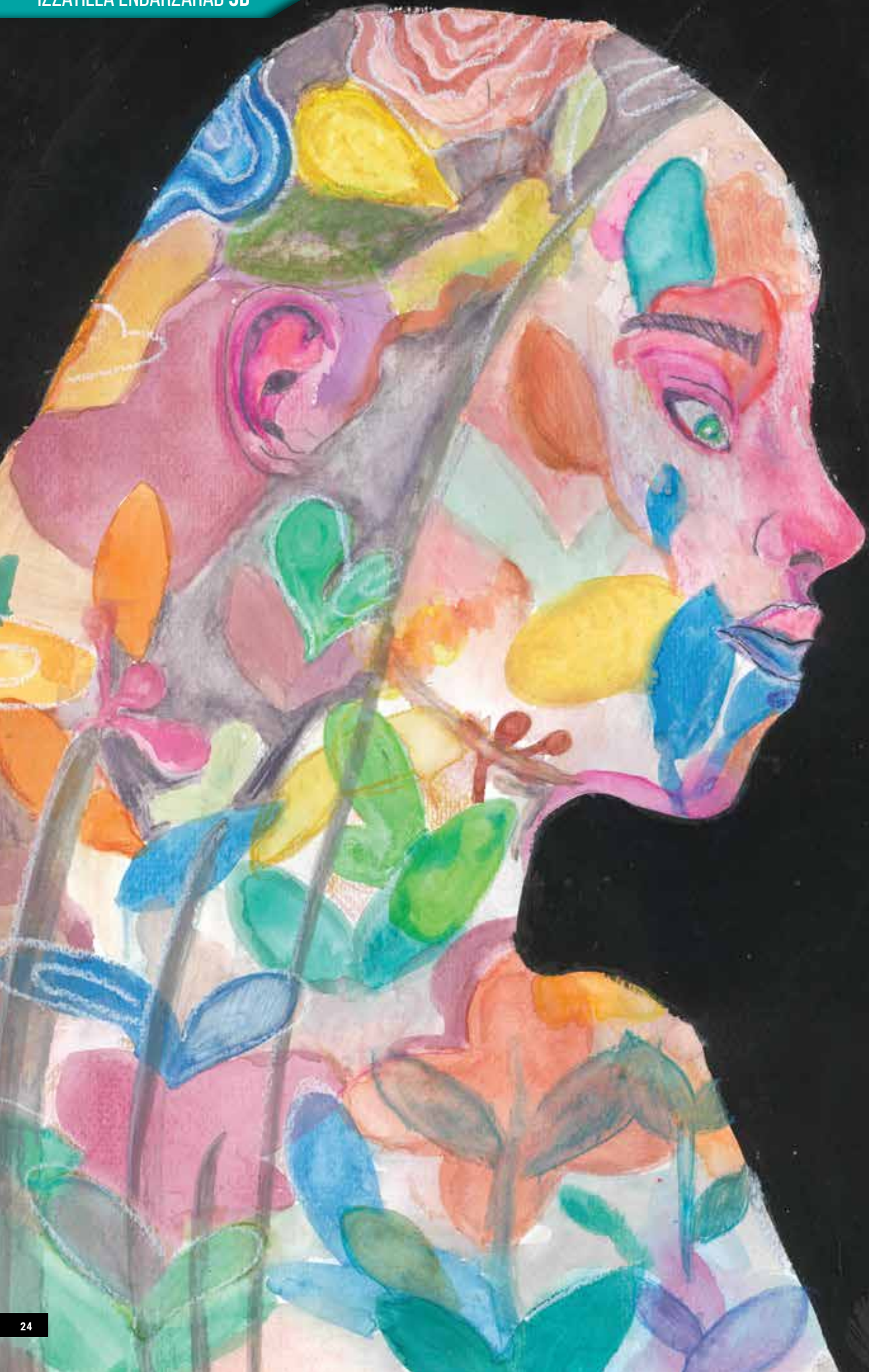
Control your emotions
Make peace with your mind
Wear a smile on your face

AND BE KIND!

ALEISHA TALEB 100



HANA AYAD 9D



Victor finds family

Policeman Victor Richards worked in Trenton, New Jersey. When he returned from work one chilly evening, he set his bag down on the table. He opened the refrigerator, fetched a protein drink, and removed the cap. Victor glanced at a photo frame of his family as he took a sip of his drink. He gazed at his mother, father, and wife, all of whom were smiling in the photo. One day while he was at work a family fire claimed all their lives. A tear dropped from his face into his beverage. He set the beverage down and prepared to head to the gym.

A few days later, Victor visited the clerk at an adoption agency. He was interviewed in a room by the clerk. Up until she inquired about his criminal history, everything went smoothly. "I'm a police officer, so you can believe that I've done nothing wrong." She believed him then asked whether he had time to look after a child every day and take them to school. He declined simply because he knew he couldn't.

The following day, Victor reported for duty and was taken aback when the Sheriff instructed him to head straight to his office. He quickly entered and sat down. Henry Thompson, the sheriff, stated that they urgently wanted him to fly over to a camp in Texas where young boys' rights were being violated. Victor was driven to the airport, where he slipped through security and boarded the aircraft. The following day, he arrived in Texas.

On the 20-mile drive to the camp, Victor peered out the car window and saw nothing except sand, mountains, and road. When they arrived, they were horrified to see how the boys were living. Boys who appeared to have gone a week without eating or taking a shower. The boys' names were being written down as they were transported to their relatives in a bus. Ricky, often known as Zigzag by the camp guys, was one of the children he was left without a family member to be returned to. Ricky was also called Zigzag by the camp boys. Victor had a thought. He requested permission to adopt Ricky from the boys' lawyer. The attorney promised to do all in her power to make it happen.

Two months later, Victor took some time off from work to enjoy himself with Ricky, a new addition of his family. He expressed his gratitude to the attorney by giving her a present. Ricky couldn't have been happier and more appreciative to Victor.

**Duromsa
Mohammed 8D**



WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF LIFE?

My life revolves around boxing, studying, working, travelling and being around family.

I feel like the importance of life is just to be yourself. Having a main goal in life right now is important and that's how I see the world.

Most of the time I am travelling and have found peace with travelling around the world. A meaningful life links individuals to a greater feeling of significance and value, contributing favourably not just to our own personal and spiritual development but also to society and human civilisation as a whole. It makes you. Having a main goal in life right now is important. For example, I want to be a nurse when I grow up and I see myself as a nurse. I'm going to be studying for many years to get the position.

I have always dreamed of being a nurse.

FATIMAHAMZE10B



LIFE POEM

I make mistakes,
Quite often it makes me ache,
But those mistakes,
Help me grow,
And I overflow,
When I fumble,
Though I get into trouble,
I've been known to make errors,
Or a false move that'll make terrors.
Life is complicated.
It'll always be populated,
Stress is a distraction,
From what is really important.
Learn to be happy now,
Otherwise,
You might run out of time...

FADIYA MERHI7A



LIFE POEM

Friends, the family you choose.
Provide you with support,
when needed.
Take care of you, cheer your up
in hard times.

Friends make you happy & less lonely.
Make your feel loved.
Friendships, impact mental & physical health.
Friends, provide you with comfort.

Friends give you gifts,
take you places,
make you food.
So you are happy.

When help is needed they don't hesitate to help you.
Make an effort to make you laugh,
so you are happy.

Friends share thoughts and ideas.
Tell your secrets no-one knows.
Because they trust you.
Friends
They're always there for you in life !

FALAK SURAHIO 7B





ADNAN HAMZA 7A

Life at the school canteen

“Hey Ann, is that your cake you aren’t going to eat?” Jessie, an exchange girl from class asked me, she wore a teal top with brown pants. I didn’t answer, I continued staring at my plate of food while fiddling with my cutlery. Then she placed her hands on my arm and started gripping it tightly.

“Hey, Anna? Come on, just say yes and I’ll be going,” I mumbled to myself, “have it, you’ll feel like you had worms.”

She let go of my arm and shouted aloud, “See! I told you I was not bullying her; she’s giving her food to me!” Everyone in the canteen turned their backs to look where the shout came from, giving looks of disgust, confusion, and simple curiosity. No one likes cake from the canteen, and there is a very straightforward reason.

“Come on, Jessie, take the cake and eat it, it’ll feel tingly!” I said to her with a large grin. The whole school watched with interest as the scene played out. Jessie had gotten suspicious of the large audience staring at her, she stared at the canteen lady for confirmation to eat it. Every person had an incident with cake, but no one bothered to inform others, even the canteen lady was well aware what would happen.

“Mixed with a wonderfully expensive cheese! Have a try!” the canteen lady shouted happily to Jessie.

“People would usually have no doubts of bad food because of being in an expensive school, so what’s stopping you?” I asked her. She started sweating with worry, she had a good look at everyone in the canteen before she scooped up the cake in her hand. She held it up to her face, examining every inch of the cake.

“Um, is it me or is the cake’s insides moving?” Jessie commented. Then, an annoyingly loud screech came out from her. She threw the cake onto my uniform, before trying to run off to the bathroom and slipping on the floor. “This is a very rare dish, expensive too, and you throw it onto someone?!” the canteen lady shouted at Jessie, whom was laying on the floor unresponsive. The whole canteen burst into laughs and giggles.

“That is the whole story principal Ciro! I didn’t lie a single bit of it!” I protested, “That was entirely the exchange student’s fault!” I looked to my right, where Jessie was sitting. She had an ice pack to her head. The principal sighed, “For the fifth time, Anna? Are you making yourself a target for bullies so you can do this?” My smile turns into the look of embarrassment.

Amelie Sophia Iskander 8D

Life

Life is what God gives us

Life is God's gift,
one that we can use

God didn't give us a gift to waste,
it is meant to be used correctly

To be alive,
you had to be less afraid

To be alive, you had to realise that
you are alive

So, love yourself!

Make the most of your life and
don't waste it

Be fun, watch the sunrise, scare
yourself or go experience nature

Because God gave us life for a
reason, and it's best to use it and
not waste it.

Baran Karaca 7E



Life in The Lake

In Lebanon

*I went to a mini lake
It had cute little tadpoles
And a diving board
It also had a pool near by
Since it was a Public area.
I got scared of the small green lake
It was deep and cold
But
It had lots of nature type of stuff
The tiles were a nice colour
It was shaped nice
And lots of flowers and grass.*

Ghinwa El-Achkar 7B

Life as a New Migrant

“Boom!” It was another one of those bombs. You could’ve heard them from miles away. This was the day. I was sick of the war going on in Japan. It was the worst in Tokyo, where I live. Today at exactly 4:30 am I will finally be traveling to Australia. Hopefully the North Korean army don’t know about it.

It was the year 2045. The plane was about to take off. I was very nervous, and I think the flight attendant noticed it.

“Are you alright Mr... Takashi?” she said, as she looked at my boarding pass.

“Yes thank you. Please just call me Akako,” I replied.

The plane taking off felt like a massive earthquake. Once we were in the air, it was actually quite comfortable, except for some turbulence that scared me half to death and the fact that the North Korean army could shoot us down any possible time.

Once we landed in Australia, I didn’t know what to do. I was told that I could not actually live here until I got permission.

I was actually what they call an “asylum seeker”.

Now I had to go through paper work about terms and conditions. I was very doubtful about signing them, but I had no other choice. It took a whole year, but I got through it, gratefully.

Another challenge was learning the language. Thankfully I learnt a bit of English at school back in Tokyo, so I knew the fundamentals. I changed my name to Ayden Takashi so people could pronounce it much easier. It took me two whole years to master English. Now life is much easier. I still miss my home country. There is no war in Australia. People are very kind here. I plan to visit Japan once the war is over. It’s not as serious now but I still don’t want to take my chances. I now work as a police officer. I have three sons named John, Sam and George. I had lots of trouble and challenges I had to overcome, but it was all worth this second life... my new life in Australia.

Hamza Haq Year 6D



AYAAN MOHAMMAD 9D

LIFE

Life is a movie that seems to never end
But all the imperfection is for you to mend
Some people cope by following a creator
Others believe there's something far greater.

In a blink of an eye, you're sick in bed
You think 'man I wish I'd done great instead'
But now your time is done, you got to go
You got people praying on top of you while your six feet below.

Life necessarily isn't always about regret
There will always be amazing people that you have met
Your family, your relatives, your friends from school
Pick the right friends and don't be a fool.

Friends can shape you, whether you're good or bad
Choose the type of friends that don't make
you mad
Instead of having friends who follow lust and desire
Be the bigger person and aim for something higher.

Throughout your journey, happiness will exist
But with it may come many plot twists
So don't lose hope on your very first try
Regain your status and keep your head high .

HABIBA MOHAMMED ABDELLA 8D

EXTRACT FROM “Before I Die”

We live our lives without looking back. I want to look back on the good days. However, I know that it is too late for me now, but saying this, I do not want to lose my memories. People die, but words live forever, so I want to remember and cherish the memories that I have, and I want them to live eternally within these pages. I think the most prominent memory that comes to mind would be the times I went camping with my family. Actually, I want to start off with one of the best trips of my life.

It was June or July, about wintertime in Australia. My family and I went on a road trip to outback Australia. The desert may seem quite lacklustre and monotonous, but it is one of the most beautiful things to ever exist.

Seeing the sun set on the straight horizon gives a unique feeling of solace. The isolation of the desert combined with the warm wind makes you feel as if this world is yours. I used to love the drives. For many, long drives are extremely boring, but if you stop for once to look at the view, it will not be. I remember us going to a town in New South Wales called Broken Hill. It was quite a busy town, but it was isolated, with deserts for miles. The streets of Broken Hill were empty, only occupied by the dry and hot winds. If you ever go to a desert, always look for the stars at night. When the sky is clear, the number of stars in the sky seem to increase

with every passing hour. As the night ages, the stars get brighter until you see a miracle in front of your eyes. The stars are so bright that if you hold a bucket of water, you can see the reflection of the stars. I do not know why, but even after always being a city boy, I have a weakness for nature. Through my window right now I can see the moon, a distant glow due to being covered by clouds.

After that trip, I had a wish. I want to die seeing the sea of stars. I want to die under the stars. I still do, but it is a shame that the sky is not clear today. During that trip, I also learnt an important aspect of life. We are indeed so busy trying to figure out the next thing that we forget to stop and appreciate what we have. Living busy lives means that we always have a palpable tension in our mind. Whether it be exam-related, job related or even marital stress. However, when you are in the middle of the desert, a thousand miles away from home, all these stresses dissipate. It is only me, myself, and I. Nature gives us a place where we can contemplate, something we rarely ever do in our lives. How long can you go without touching your phone or receiving a call? Most of us cannot even say two hours. We are in this bubble; stuck in an illusion that we are running free.

My best memory of that trip would be the drive. I remember driving up the desert hills, with the sun setting on the silhouette

of the hill, like a lion's golden mane. Glass House by Machine Gun Kelly was playing in the background, and I do not know, I just felt so alive. I never felt so alive before in my life. I always wanted to be successful in life, to have money, a beautiful family, and a triple-story penthouse along with a myriad of other materialistic desires, but when I came to nature's abode, they all went away. Why do we want money? Why do we want success? We want all these materialistic achievements when all we need is just peace. Peace. Do you even understand what that is? Peace is not being obligated to reply to someone as soon as possible. Peace is not being placed under the microscope for every act that you do. Peace is being able to express yourself without anybody calling you 'emo' or 'edgy'. Peace is something you guys do not let me have. You have taken it away from me. Peace is something forgotten, like reading an ancient family tree, knowing that each person is dead are just piles of bones. Speaking of bones, have you ever seen a skeleton?

When we die, we are all just a pile of bones. Some of our bones turn to ash, some lay in boxes, and some just turn to soil. The fixed variable between them all is that they are all bone, in one way or the other. Death does not account for whether you were handsome, rich, smart, or poor. Is there life after death? Probably. Death is an interesting

phenomenon. There is not a single day that passes that I do not think about it. We all are humans, and at some point, in our lives, we have had fun. However, I have realised that as we mature, and we come to accept the fact that everything will come to an end. But do we truly accept death for what it is? Why do we fear it for our loved ones? Why do we fear it ourselves? When we have good times, deep inside, I see the fear of death manifesting. We do not even realise it, but our whole life revolves around death. Everything we do is for death. We live for death. We have fun when we can before we die, we want to find love before we die. After we have fun and find love, we pray that it lasts. Once it lasts, we pray that death does not befall our children. It is just an endless cycle of hide and seek with death. I'll stop. I need to gather my thoughts; I was talking about a holiday vacation and now I am talking about death. It is so ironic and hilarious at the same time. I guess that's the reality of life.

Ihram Muzayen 11D

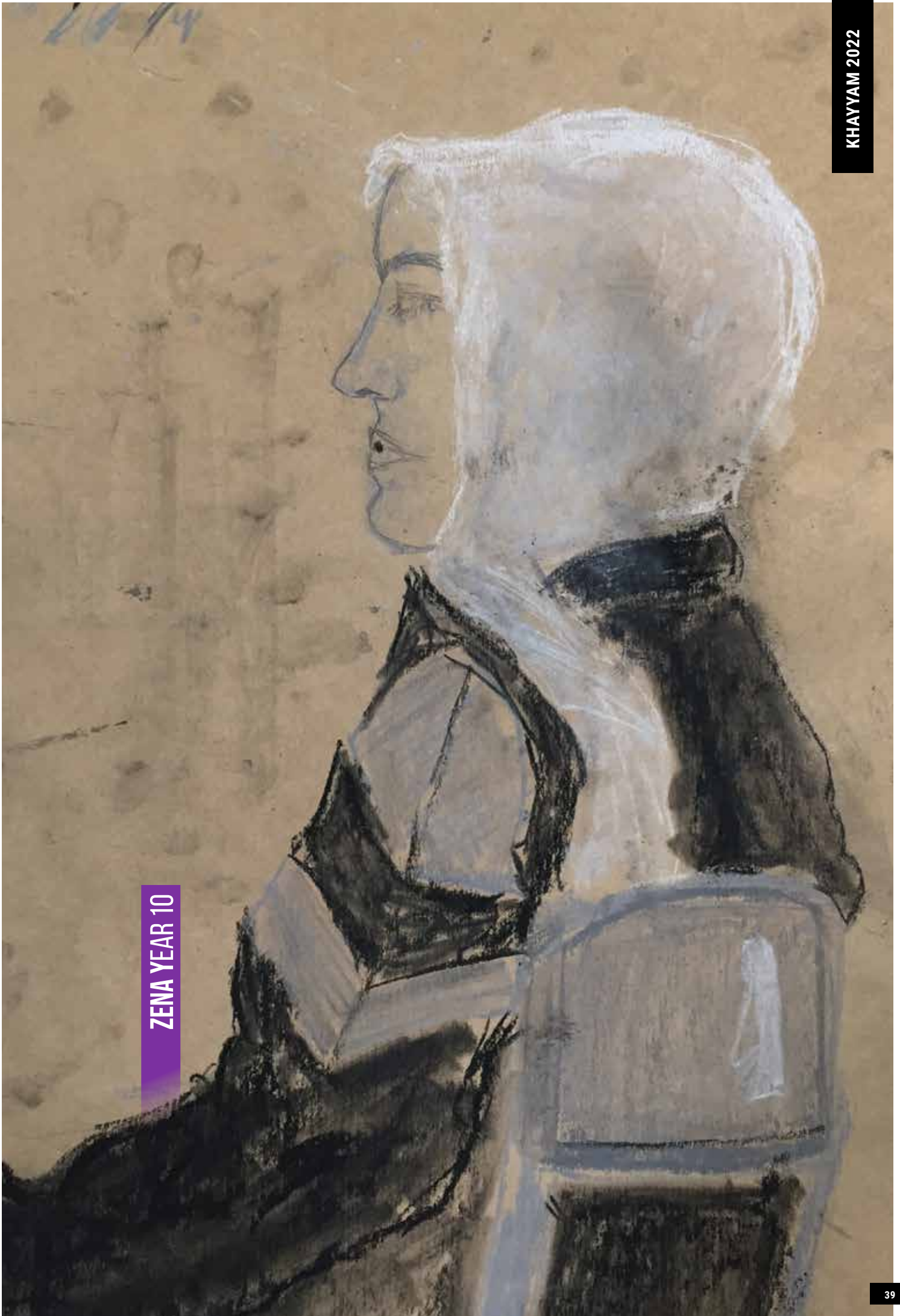
Life with Face Masks

Since Corona started everyone wears masks public areas, government everyone publicly wear face masks because less chance of being sick. Protected.

People out there aware of it still don't listen. Cases there are a lot of people getting sick losing their jobs .

HIRAH ABDULKENI 7D

ZENA YEAR 10



THE WAY OF LIFE

Life has challenges and obstacles you must face
But in order to succeed you must live with faith.
Some people lose hope and live in despair
But that is no reason to look and compare.

What others have that we failed to get
But life is more than what we expect.
Let's all just take some time to reflect
And let us not look at all the defects.

We should all look at the possibilities ahead
And never mind the challenges instead.
If you fall along the way
Stand back up and walk away.

Move on from stuff that are in the past
And when you do, you have surpassed.
All those times that meant no value
Are lost in time and cannot catch you.

Never change yourself to fit in
Or the burden will fall within.

Life can sometimes be tough
And you feel like you have had enough.

But no matter how difficult it gets
Never listen to all those threats.
They are just feeling envious
You will always be the friendliest.

Life will have its ups and downs
But keep your smile and never frown.
Friends will always be around
And they will help you stand your ground.

You the queen will have the crown
And the others will just be a clown.
A helping hand is all you need
Life will be a growing seed.

Life can be a disappointment
But friendship can be an ointment.
Love and hate come hand in hand
Maybe they can join a band.

Even though life itself
Will always be an elf on the shelf
Look around and see the moments
That make life a worthy component

HIBBA SHERAZ 8D

Life

Life to me is just a journey that each one of us have to take.

Life is each human being's time to serve Allah.

Life is a story that every human being has to write.

Life is a plane that every human has to take flight.

Life is a question everyone has to find their own answer.

Life is like a book and you are the author.

Hasan Bagdadi 9B

LIFES CONFUSING DREAMS

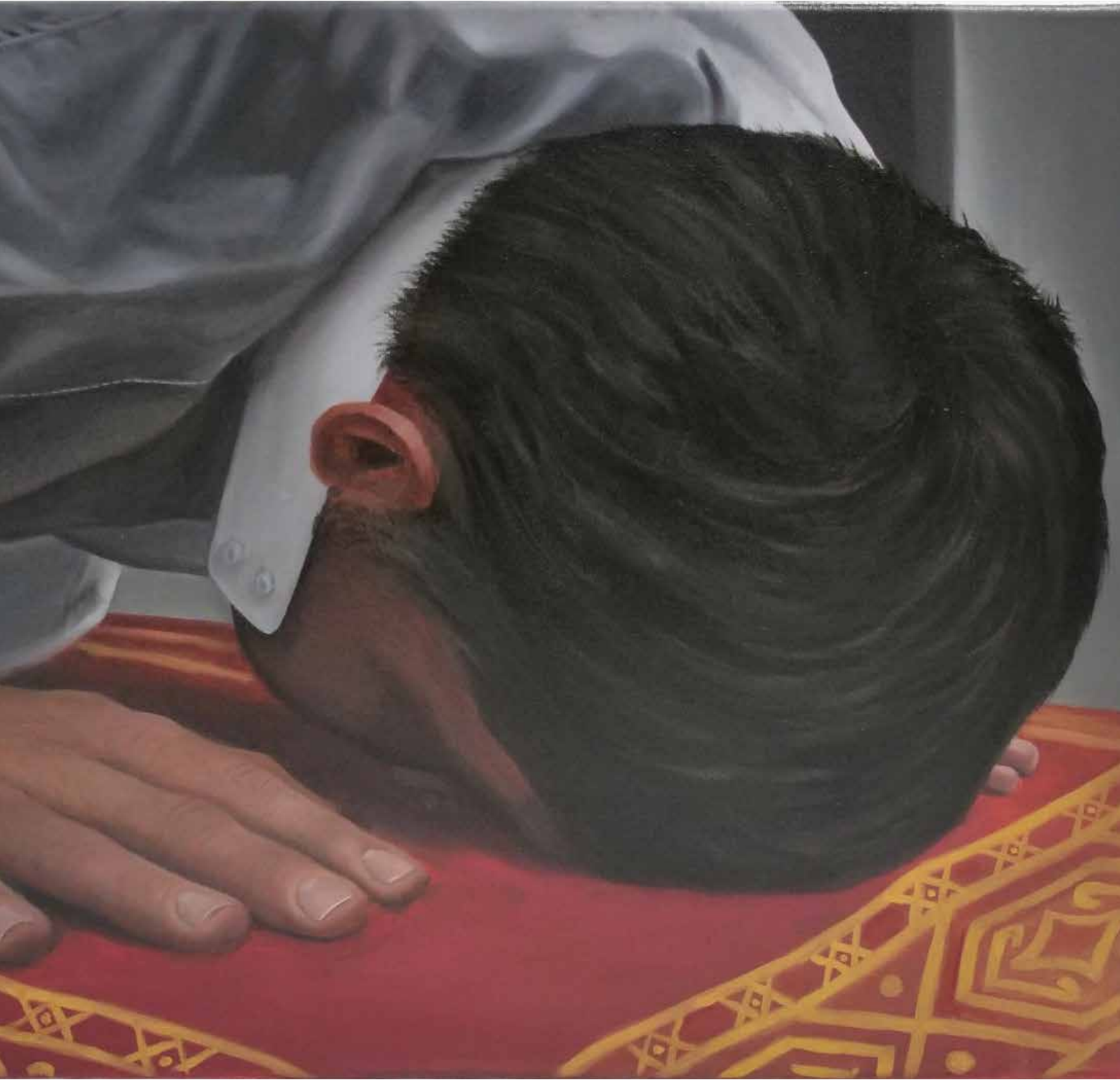
Random dreams, confusing and weird
Jumping from planets to planets boom bam
Objects float up, down, right and left
Stars shine and twinkle.

Scrolling through time scroll, scroll, scroll
1752,1978, 3130, 49, dates roaming in my head.

Landing on a planet light snatched away
Light appears and I wake up.

ISHAQ SYED 7B





ARTWORK | LEYAAN KAPISIZ, YEAR 11

Why wouldn't I win?

Sitting in a room playing video games with your 12 year old sister wasn't a very good example of how your life was turning out. Then again you never really had expectations for yourself. Graduating high school at 15 certainly didn't help; you received a ridiculously large amount of money for bringing the school honour. Yet your smarter younger sister refused to pursue any type of education, as she didn't see the point of it. Truth of the matter was you were on the verge of going broke, never once after receiving the money had thoughts for either of your futures crossed your mind; in fact the electricity bill from all the games was probably more than your rather low life expectancy.

"Hey what day is it?" you asked your sister.

"It's Thursday...why does it even matter?" Right then she basically fell on the floor.

"It matters because then I can tell when the next tournaments start." He looked away from a glimpse of his little sister collapsed on the floor.

"Blythe... BLY!!!" You started shaking her violently. "Please wake up!"

Your sister slouched looking rather uncomfortable she grabbed the tablet that had recently beeped with a notification. You realised she had read it when a shocked expression fell on her face and then the tablet emitted a light that swallowed the room.

You snapped your eyes open and immediately you wished you hadn't. You started screaming with your little sister who had grappled herself around you like a safety harness. Falling from the sky was definitely not on your bucket list but you probably wouldn't have one after you hit the floor. Oh wait - where was the floor? Just then a dust surrounded you and a kid appeared before you.

"Hello! Welcome to Niidamfia my names Colei! There are some rules you will need to follow during your stay here. Number one..."

"HELP US PLEEEASE!" Your little sister screamed into your shirt.

"What did you say?" Colei replied.

"HELP US!" You and your sister screamed in sync.

"Oh yeah! Sure sorry!" he said swiftly, while clicking his fingers and you were suddenly on the ground.

"Anyways as I was saying rule number one yo-" Colei went on and on while you and your sister's heads were heavy and you quite frankly didn't catch a word of what he said.

"Do you understand everything I said?" Colei said enthusiastically.

"Yeah," you said feeling like you were going to throw up "So where are we?"

"I just said this! You're in Niidamfia: World of Games!" Colei said

"And how do we leave Niidafusia"

"First it's pronounced Ni-Damn-Fee-Ah and second if you wish to leave this world you must play a game with me and win but chances of that are slim because you're like looking at a pro."

"Which game?" your sister said.

"Just a simple game of chess!" Colei replied. Clicking his fingers a floating chess board appeared.

"Okay," she looked ahead and said "I'll win this for us." After nodding the game started.

You had been the one to teach your sister chess when the internet went out one day and you taught her the basics but then she became addicted to it. She had learnt everything about chess and for some reason the one thing that was going through your head was her description of the game 'To every game there is a perfect solution that will never lose.'

Right about now you were really hoping she was right.

Your mind snapped when your sister uttered the words "Check".

Colei looked disappointed as he shook his head "I kind of knew you'd win from the start you're really talented!" He then clicked his finger and a portal appeared behind him.

You ran to hug your sister. "You're so skilled!" She smiled briefly in return. Then your smile kind of faded and he looked at Shiro, she nodded and he suddenly let go of her and walked to Colei.

"I'm not sure we want to go back," you stated. Your sister looked at you with a look that was encouraging you. "I'm not quite sure I understand," said Colei.

"That world is unfair and chaotic; it is built off the wish that the world could be more interesting. There's no way to know the rules or goals yet there are billions of players making moves. If you lose or win too much, you get punished. That is what you call a crappy game. It's clearly foreseeable to anyone that we were meant to be born in this world." Just then the portal closed and you walked away with your sister trailing behind. A whole new world stood before you.

By Maryam Hussein 8D

LIFE IN THE LOVELY EGYPTIAN SKIES

A place like no other,
Lovely restaurants, flawless hotels.
Riding camels and an exciting flight,
Sandy pyramids.
Environment warm and bright,
Beautiful to fly a kite.
Food so nice and tasty,
It might turn you crazy.

Quite warm,
Which you would expect.
The weather,
You definitely should check.
Different everyday,
Which is good.
Doing something new,
You should!

YUSUF ABDULLAH 7B

OUTAGE IN LIFE

On a dark and gloomy Saturday morning, a little boy named Bob woke up. It was the year 2126. He got up and realized that his lamp was turned off. He remembered clearly that he had turned it on during the night. He thought that was peculiar, but he dismissed it. He went downstairs and noticed that it was very cold downstairs. "Huh, I thought Dad turned the heater on last night," said Bob. He went to go make himself a sandwich or just anything to eat but when he opened the fridge, he noticed that it was off and warm.

It was at this point that he realized something was wrong. He tried turning the TV on, but it just wouldn't turn on! He started to scream; "Mom! Dad! Come downstairs quick!" His parents rushed downstairs from bed as they thought something was wrong. "What is it Bob? Its 7 in the morning?" said Dad. "I think the power has gone out!" said Bob. Dad tried the light switch but with no result. He thought it might have been just a power outage. Just for their house or maybe an electrical line had malfunctioned.

Just as the family was wondering, that moment a bunch of military vehicles and trucks parked into their neighborhood. A soldier hopped out of the vehicle and used a **HUGE** speaker. "Everyone, remain calm! All power across the world has turned off!" the soldier announced. The family looked outside the window and saw horror and chaos. They saw that the sky was red everyone was screaming, just the setting you would imagine in a movie! Dad ran outside and as he left the house, he was hit by an electrical pole which had collapsed. He was rushed to the hospital, but without power he might not get treatment.

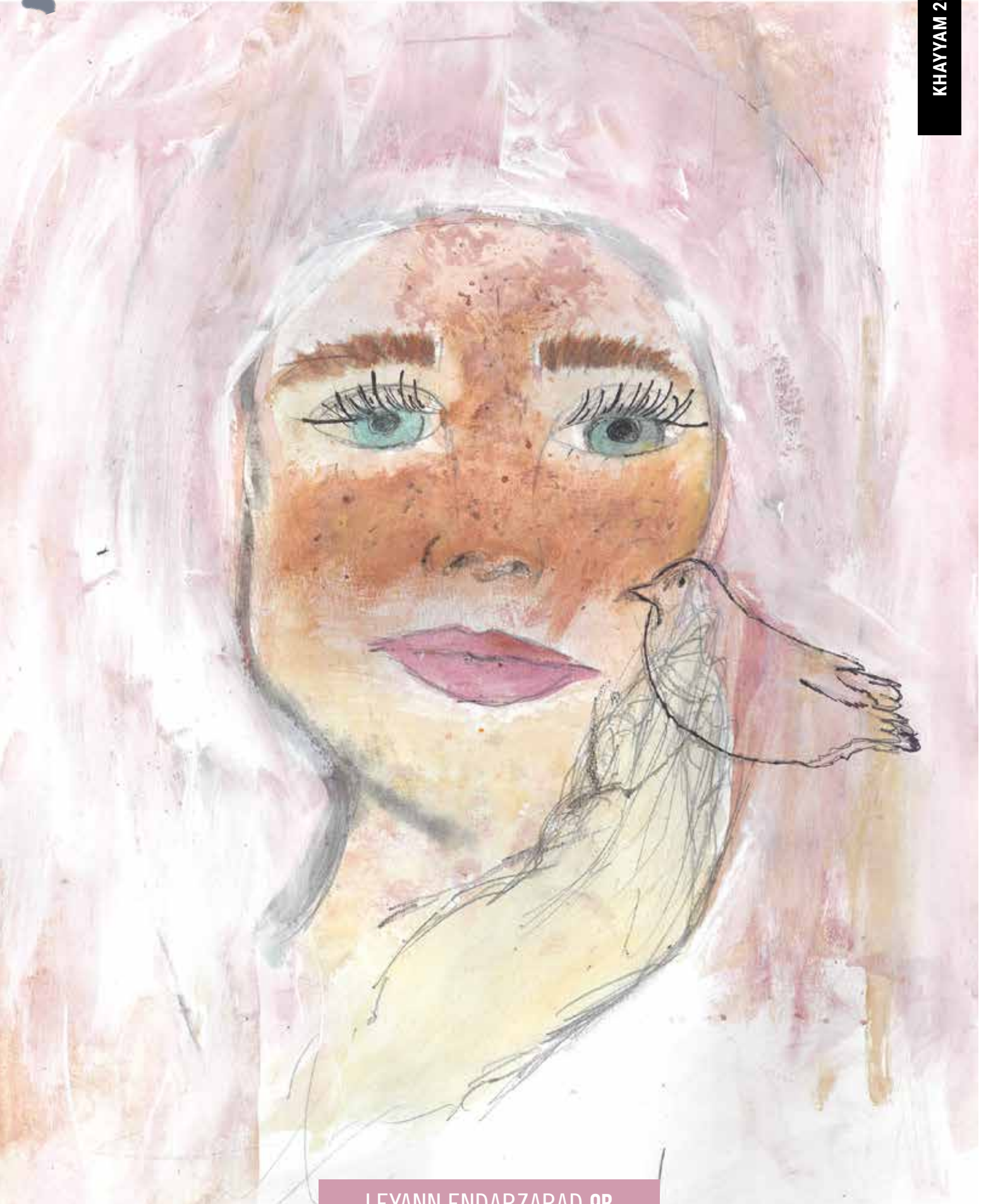
5 Years Later....

In 5 years, Dad ends up getting treatment and the world starts relying on nuclear powered energy. This arrangement, of course was very risky, but it was a risk humanity had to take. Bob was now in his teenage years going to high school. He was in Year 9, going onto his 15th birthday. Back then, people had predicted that using nuclear energy might help us now but will have serious repercussions in long term aspect.

Just as human life went back to normal, a malfunction appeared in one of the plants. It then exploded and caused a chain reaction all over the world. The location of the explosion was in the USA, Bob, and his family live in England.

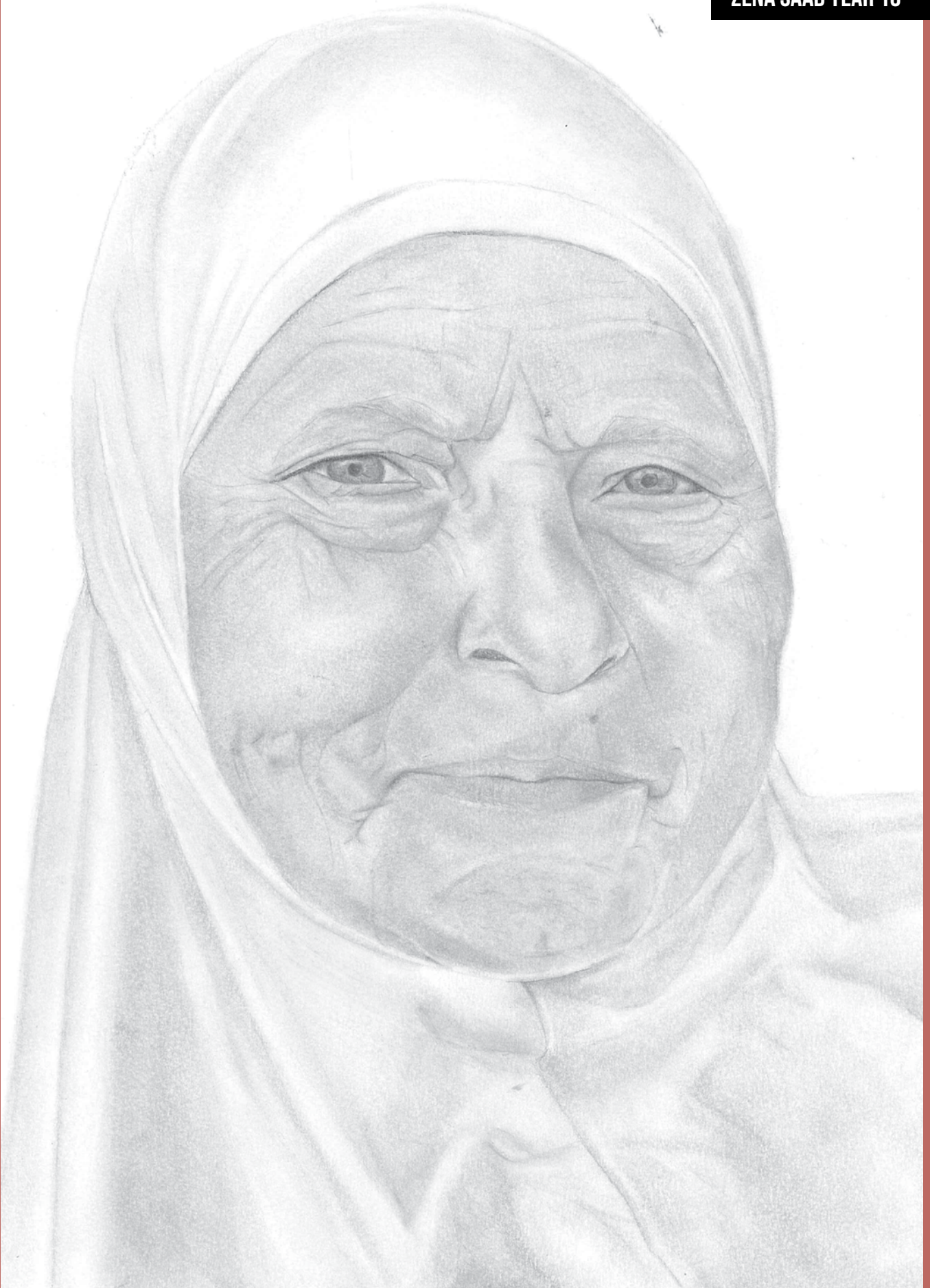
The world after that malfunction will never be the same after that death toll.....

YOUSSEF TIMRAZ 6B



LEYANN ENDARZARAD 9B

ZENA SAAD YEAR 10





POEM ABOUT LIFE IN HOLES

ZOYA KHURRAM 8D

Stanley Yelnats a boy, young and big,
Gets up everyday just for him to dig.
Arrived at Green Lake for an accused crime,
Things can go right or wrong depending on the time.

His great grandfather was extremely unlucky,
To open the treasure he needed to find the key.
Climbed up the mountain with a friend to find some answers,
You have to be careful some people can be bouncers.

Stanley had friends kind and rude,
Nothing was good there- not even the food.
He wanted to go home and just leave this place,
Friends can be cool but have others just in case.

Tired of the warden all she does is relax,
Scared of the lizards they can cause attacks.
The weather is so hot, only one shower a day,
Things happen in life not always the right way.

My time is coming to an end, time to say goodbye,
While I was leaving my friends just stood by.
Finally Stanley is back with his family.
Now he can live forever just happily.

Poem about life

Life is like a camera just focus on what's important and capture the good times develop from the negatives and if things don't work out take another photo.

Life is like the lucky dip you never know where you're going to start or what you're going to get.

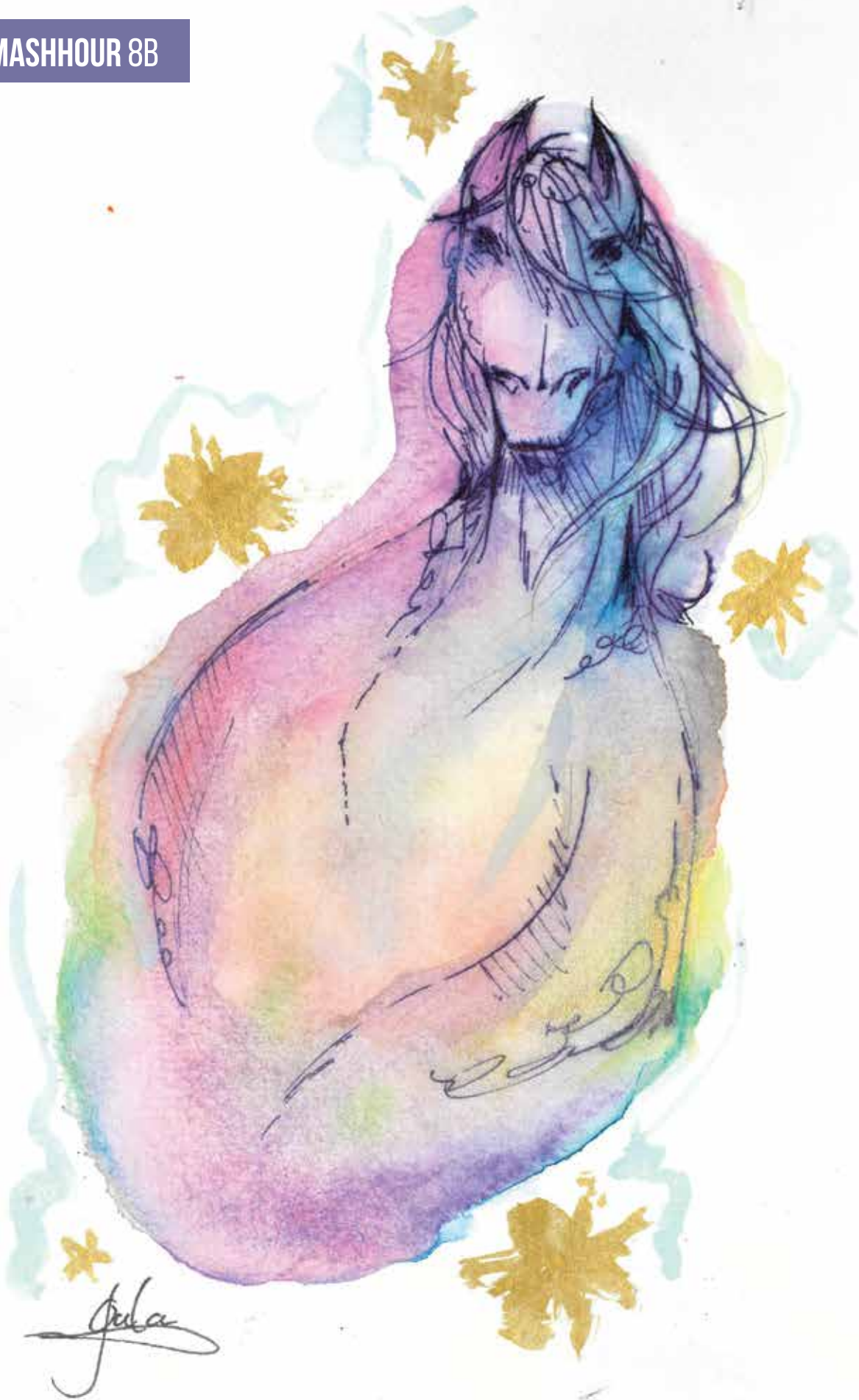
Life is nothing without worshipping Allah you have no goal and you don't have anything to follow so don't forget Allah bought you here.

Suicide, don't commit suicide you won't come back but you will go to a place where you will want to come back from.

Life, is hard it's annoying- just because of this don't give up your chance to enter Heaven and if you give up your chance to Heaven your face will see Hell.

MARUF KURT 7D





“Well life can’t be fair to everyone, so just suck it up.”

Mum and dad are the loudest people cheering out of the crowd when they see you walk onto that stage. You’ve always made them happy. That used to be the case with me too. Until you came into this world. Ever since you were born, you made my life hell.

I was never bad in my studies; I was a straight A student. I was the top in all my classes, I won a lot of soccer championships, I knew how to play the guitar. But you were just better. You were a straight A+ student. You were the top in your grade. You won all your soccer, netball, and hockey championships. You knew how to play the violin, piano, and the guitar. They took my guitar away from me because you just played it better.

You shake the principal’s hands, holding your certificate of graduation proudly. Mum and dad are standing up, with their cameras focusing on you, making sure they capture every second of this moment. This could’ve been my moment 2 years ago, but instead they missed it, to watch you play in the orchestra. You have gotten everything you have ever wanted, but you always wanted more, and more. Life was always fair for you.

I obviously didn’t adapt quickly to you when you were born. All the attention drifted towards you. ‘Oh, how is Mia? Did Mia eat? Can we take care of Mia for you? Did Mia win her netball grand finals?’ No one asked that about me. Wasn’t I good enough for them? I thought I was. So, I asked them.

“What? Have you seen Mia? She gets better grades than you, plays more sports

and wins all her matches. She can play 3 instruments and has mastered all of them! Of course, you’re not good enough. You’re just some sort of failure compared to her.” My dad yelled at me. “B-but I also get good grades... A-and I can do whatever Mia can do is well!” I cried out. “Well, if you say you can, then be more like her!”

I would never think that my own father would ever say that to me, but he did. I always tried to beat her in everything, but I couldn’t. Because in fact, Mia was better than me. How was she so...perfect? I could never answer that question. But if she wasn’t here...then I would seem perfect.

If she wasn’t here.

Then I would be the best.

I call up Mia after her graduation ceremony and tell her to meet me at a swamp. She sounded concerned. As I began to drive to the place, I was re-thinking about everything. But I wasn’t going to allow this to continue.

I see her pull up in the new car that mum and dad bought for her. “What happened?” she asks. Mia and my relationship together had always been strange. We’re never mean to each other, but never nice. “Nothing’s happened, just wanted to congratulate you.” I reassure her.

I make sure to feel the knife in my pocket, slowly gripping onto it. I won’t fail this time, I’ll make sure.

SYEDA ADEENA HASHIMI 8D

LIFE AT CAMP GREEN LAKE

BY MUSFIRAH KHAN 8D

Through a difficult story, Stanley finds out who his friends are and what the secret behind Camp Green Lake really is. The life lessons of this story are that even though you make mistakes in your life, it's never too late to change them. The consequence of choices resulting from fate and destiny and the importance of friendship is the message in the book. Stanley Yelnats, is someone who has bad luck due to a curse placed on his great- great-grandfather when he broke his promise with Madam Zeroni who was a powerful fortune teller, Stanley is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention camp, for a crime he did not commit. Stanley and the other boys at the camp are forced to dig large holes in the dirt every day.

At Camp Green Lake Stanley is put in Group D with zigzag, x-ray, zero, armpit, twitch. At Camp Green Lake the boys there have to dig holes everyday out on the lake while its burning hot, the boys are required to dig a 5 feet deep hole or as the same height of their shovel. The warden at Camp Green Lake is the most feared at Camp as she has toxic rattlesnake venom nail-polish while she uses to scratch Mister Sir whom accuses Stanley of eating an entire sack of his sun-flower-seeds. The boys at Camp think they are trying to find something like Kissing Kate Barlow's treasure which she buried within the lake bed.

When Zero hits Mister Pendanski with a shovel he then runs away with the shovel away for Camp and into the hot desert. Stanley follows Zero and he both survive together away from Camp. When they return to Camp the dig Stanleys hole and find the treasure that the warden is looking for and they both get less then a million dollars each. "I'm not saying it's going to be easy. Nothing in life is easy. But that's no excuse to give up. You'll be surprised what you can accomplish if you set your mind to it. Afterall you only have one life, so you should try to make the most of it".



LIFE BEHIND A MASK

Masks became
part of our lives,
How we did things
Drastically changed,
Everywhere we went.

A magnet attached to
our faces.
For the sake of our
lives,
Families,
Protection.

People felt suffocated,
Under a mask
Hard to breathe.

Many people couldn't
Because of illnesses.
But others were okay.
And went about, their
daily lives.

NAHILY OMAR 7B



SHAAKIRA BEKAI YEAR 8A

KHAYYAM 2022

