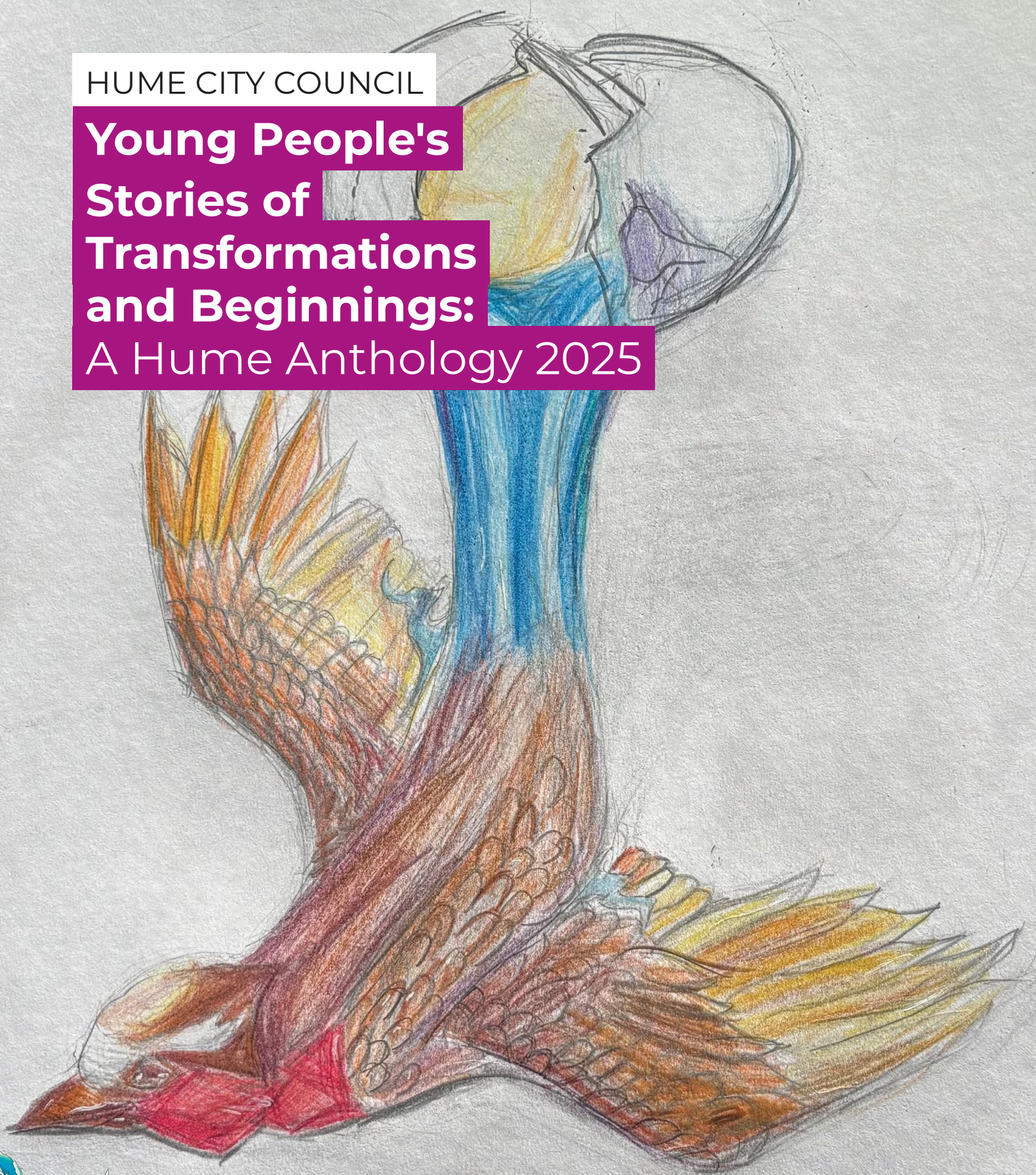


HUME CITY COUNCIL

**Young People's
Stories of
Transformations
and Beginnings:
A Hume Anthology 2025**



Front cover design

The Birth of Freedom
Rayan Ghandi (Age 12)
Sunbury Downs College



Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates, and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and to Elders past, present and future.

Acknowledgement of contribution to Young People's Stories of Transformations and Beginnings: A Hume Anthology 2025

Council would like to thank all the young people who contributed their amazing artwork, poems, and stories to this year's anthology.

This year's anthology would not be possible without the support of our local primary and secondary schools and services including:

- Aitken College
- Banksia Gardens Community Centre
- Broadmeadows Primary School
- Dallas Brooks Primary School
- Gladstone Views Primary School
- Greenvale Secondary school
- Goonawarra Primary school
- Hume Central Secondary College
- Hume Refugee Week Event
- Hume Valley School
- Ilim College Dallas Campus
- Indie College
- Kangan Institute
- Kolbe Catholic College
- Melbourne Polytechnic
- Mickleham Secondary College
- Mount Ridley College
- Newbury Primary School
- Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
- Penola Catholic College
- Roxburgh College
- Roxburgh Homestead Primary School
- Roxburgh Park Primary School
- Roxburgh Rise Primary school
- Salesian College
- St Dominics Primary School
- St Carlo Borromeo Primary School
- St Monicas Moonee Ponds Primary School
- Sunbury College
- Sunbury Downs
- Westmeadows Primary School
- Willmot Park Primary school

We would also like to thank all of the parents/carers for supporting your young people in their creative endeavours.

We look forward to all your submissions for next year's 2026 theme:

Young People's Stories of a Liveable City: A Hume Anthology





Mayor's Message

'Transformations and Beginnings: A Hume Anthology' reflects the voices and ideas of young people aged 6 to 24 years who live, study or work in Hume City. I am thrilled to share the submissions we received for our 2025 edition, showcasing the incredible work of our young people in Hume.

Now in its fourth year, young people across Hume were invited to submit a drawing, poem, short story, comic, painting, or photograph that reflects their experiences and hopes in relation to the themes of transformations and beginnings.

108 submissions were received this year by young people aged 6 to 24 years under three age categories:

- 6-11 years
- 12-18 years
- 19-24 years

The public was invited to vote on the best creative pieces in each category, as well as their favourite piece overall. Thank you to everyone who voted, you can find the results in this publication.

In addition, we are also pleased that this year's submissions will be exhibited for four months in the Gallery at Hume Global Learning Centre – Sunbury.

Congratulations to all the artists featured in the anthology. Each piece is a unique reflection

of the experiences and perspectives of young people in Hume. We are continuously amazed by the work submitted every year, and grateful to those who have shared their experiences with the world.

Celebrating young people's achievements and providing opportunities to prosper is part of our ongoing commitment to young people as outlined in Connect & Thrive: A Plan for Young People in Hume 2022-2026.

Thank you to all the parents, carers, and schools who supported young people to showcase their artworks this year and continue to champion their creative pursuits. This anthology project will be delivered annually and will provide a unique opportunity for young people aged 6 to 24 years to showcase their amazing talents and creativity.

Please enjoy this year's anthology and thank you to all the young people who contributed.

Cr Jarrod Bell
Mayor of Hume City

Best creative piece: Mayor's Choice Award



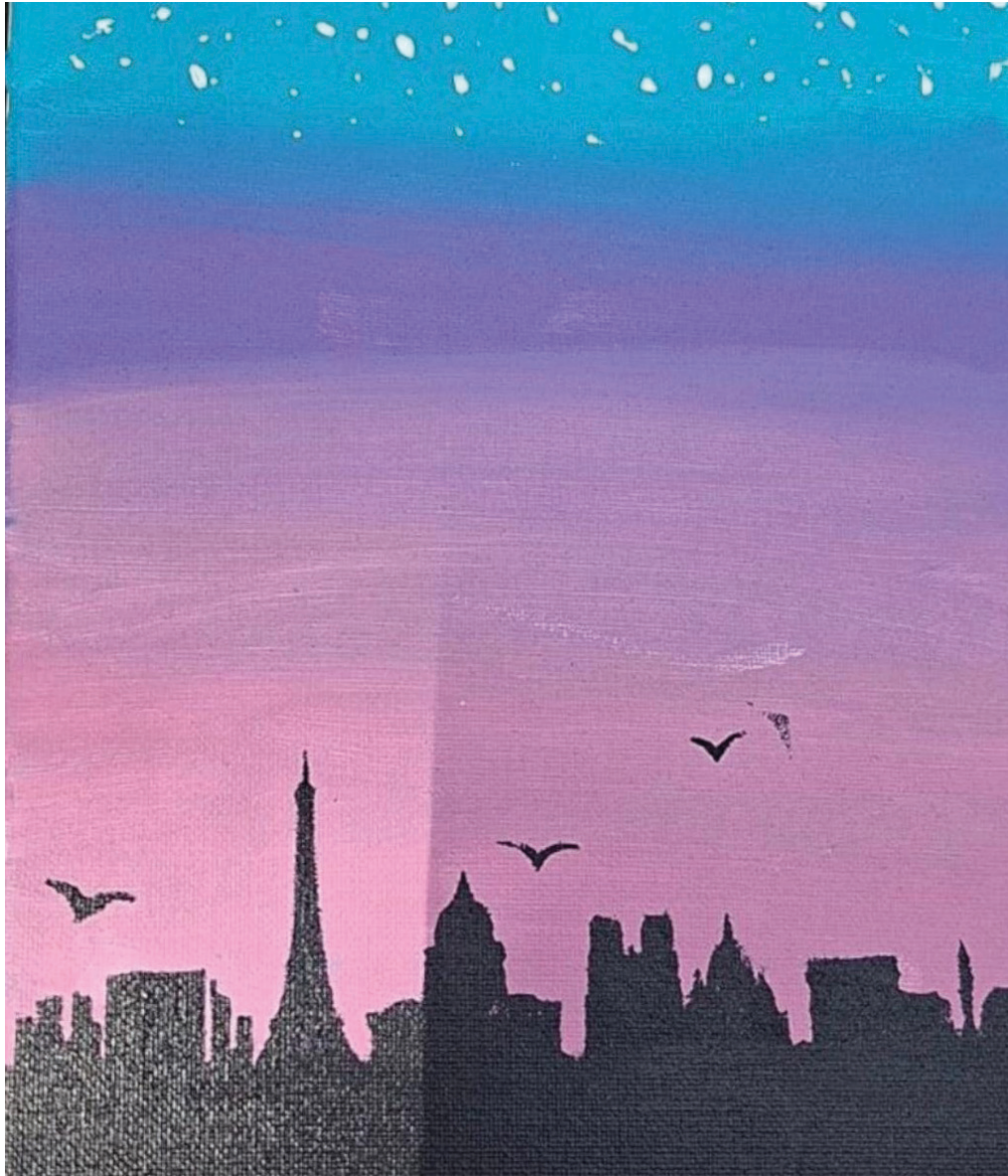
The Birth of Freedom

Raayan Ghandi (Age 12), Sunbury Downs College

Front Cover Mayor's Choice Award

"So the beginning is the egg, and the transformation is that it hatched from the egg."

Best creative piece: 6-11 year olds



Beautiful

Ala'a Alsowaidi (Age 8), Ilim College Dallas

Best creative piece: 12-18 year olds



Bloom through Gloom

Azelya Cayir (Age 14), Greenvale Secondary school

"This piece reflects the emotional transition from sorrow to renewal. The girl sits in a heavy state, her tears marking a past of pain. Yet from her mind bursts a wild, blooming garden. Just like a garden, growth takes time. The flowers remind the viewer that healing is not instant, it takes time. The bottom half reflects the weight of gloom, while the top half shows the slow but undeniable bloom of hope."

Best creative piece: 19-24 year olds



The beginning of a New Chapter: Turning the page

Renee Cherie Dugan (Age 19)

"This piece illustrates the moment when one chapter ends and another begins - a turning point we all face in life. The girl stepping into a new world represents the courage it take to move forward, into the unknown. Whether it's starting over, embracing change, or growing into a new version of yourself, every transformation begins with the decision to turn the page. This drawing is a tribute to those quiet, brave moments that begin a new story."

Community favourite: (all ages)



Untitled

Aleena Khan (Age 10), Roxburgh Rise Primary school

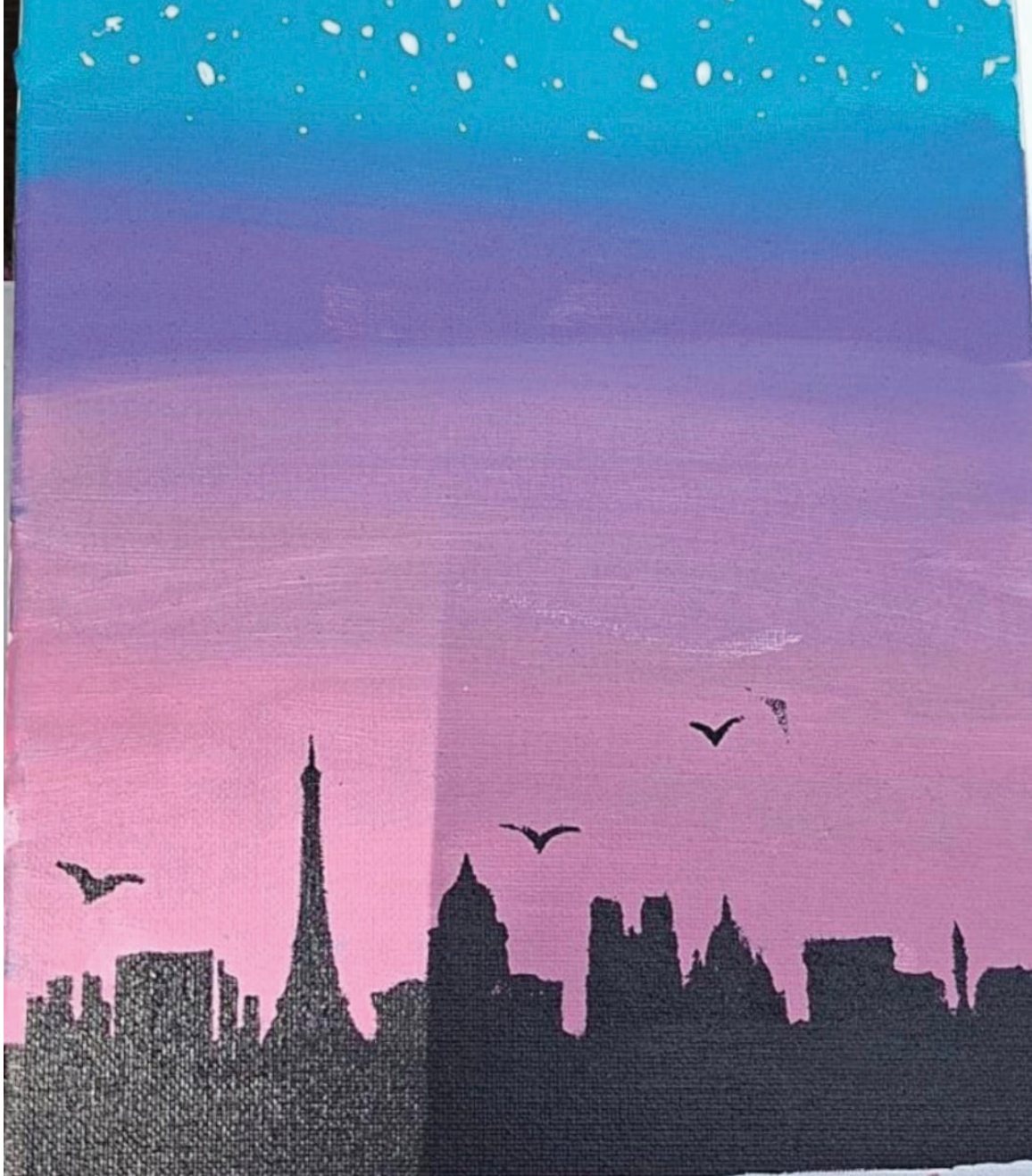
"My work talks about the journey of finding yourself, from hiding and shying away to growing and imaging your place in the world and finally to transforming into a strong and fierce person who is seen and heard."

6-11
year olds



Painting, Beginning

Aariana Chauhan (Age 6), Roxburgh Park Primary School



Beautiful

Ala'a Alsowaidi (Age 8), Ilim College Dallas

Hello, I AM ME!

Hello!
I am Ala'a Alsowaidi
My friends and family call me Lilly.
How about you?
What is your nickname?
I want to be your friend. Let's share little things about
ourselves
Were you born on a sunny morning in November like me?
What are your hobbies?
I love to draw,
I love dance, too!
I love gymnastics and swimming lots.
How about you?
My favorite color is purple.
Purple bag, purple shoes, purple bed, purple dresses!
Do you love purple like me?
There are some instruments that I love to play.
Piano, Xylophone, Guitar.
Tell me your favorite song and I will play it on your special day!
Do you have a cute little brother like me?
Is there food that makes you happy like me? Yummy Churros
dipped with chocolate!
I wonder what you like to be when you grow up. I want to be a
teacher like my favorite teacher Ms. Shadia.
My best friend Jude wants to be an astronaut as he loves
space so much.
Regardless of who you want to be, do what makes you happy.
It was nice meeting you, my new friend!
Love from Ala'a 😊

Hello, I am Me

Ala'a Alsowaidi (Age 8), Ilim College Dallas



Untitled

Aleena Khan (Age 10), Roxburgh Rise Primary school

"My work talks about the journey of finding yourself, from hiding and shying away to growing and imaging your place in the world and finally to transforming into a strong and fierce person who is seen and heard."



The Ugly Duckling

Andrea Mae Drezgic (Age 11), St Dominic Primary School Broadmeadows

"Because the "ugly" duckling turned into a graceful and beautiful swan-which is about natural transformation and how the swan starts a new and happier beginning."



untitled

Ayan Khan (Age 8), Roxburgh Rise Primary School

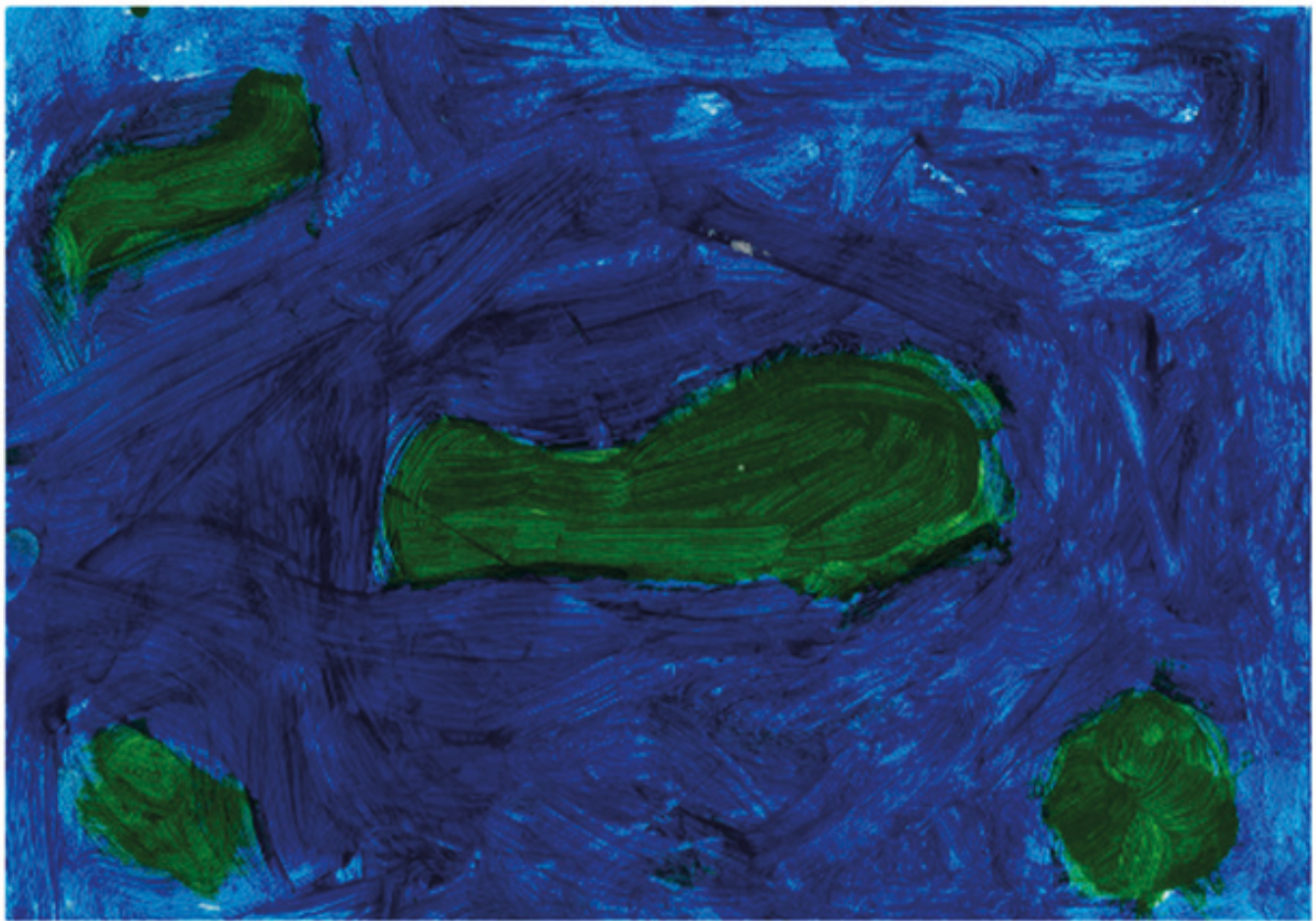
"It shows the different times of my happiness. The transformation is from happy to happiest."



Landscapes of Connection

Charbel Koro (Age 9), Hume Valley School

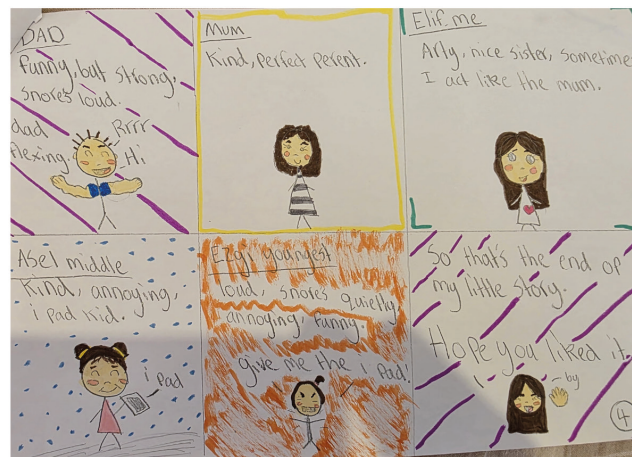
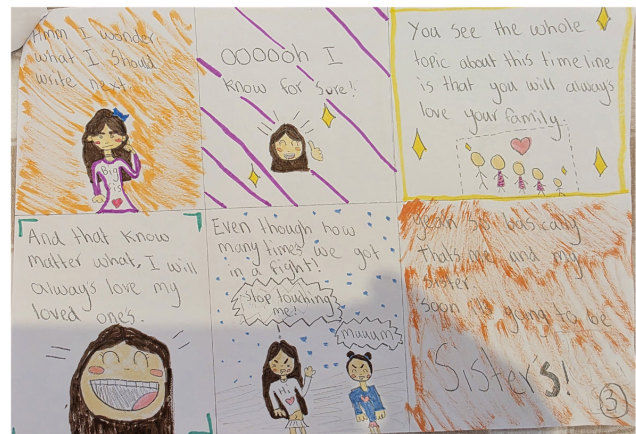
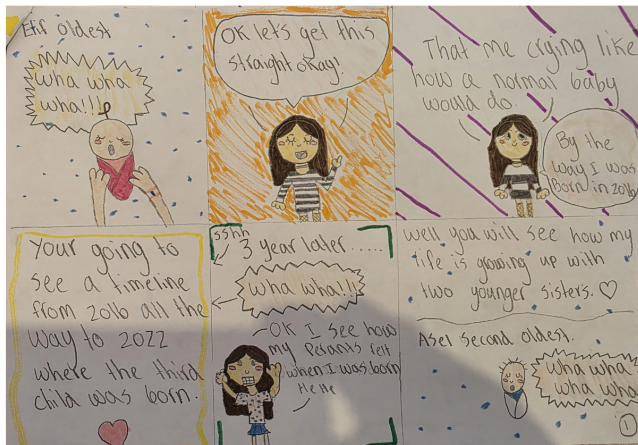
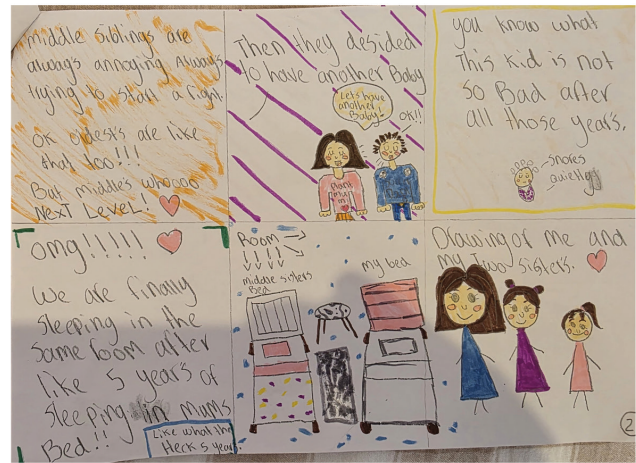
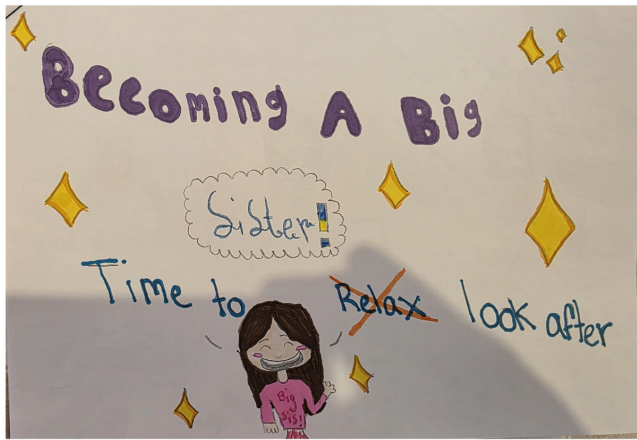
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Landscapes of Connection

Christian Zaya (Age 10), Hume Valley School

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Untitled

Elif Turkoglu (Age 9), Roxburgh Homestead Primary School

"My take on Transformations and beginnings reminded me of becoming a sister to my two siblings and the changes it brought about in my life. I wanted to express myself through some humour and art, both visually and emotionally. Becoming a sister led to new beginnings and transformations in my life."



Circle of beauty

Elijah Matthew (Age 11), Aitken College

"Because flowers are just like life when you are a baby you are just a small bud and as you grow older, you begin to unleash your inner beauty, potential, and creativity. So in a flower you see it's inner beauty always leaving a mark on wherever it's been. Likewise with humans whoever you interact with or know you leave a mark that symbolises all you have done in their lives it could be random acts of kindness, or it could just be talking to them, having a meaningful conversation."

Breaking Through

The morning air felt different this time, as if today was the start of something new. I walked out slowly, noticing how even the trees seemed brighter today, their leaves whispering to me of secrets of change. Deep down, I knew this day would never be like any other day ever. Before this day changed my life forever, I was as silent as a deer, never even trying to speak out, keeping my head down and sitting in a corner. As I reached the edge of the path, I felt a sudden strange mix of excitement and nervousness that filled me. Inside, it felt like the world was quietly opening a door, inviting me to step through...?

I didn't know what waited ahead, but I was ready to find out. Every step I took towards the shining light felt lighter...! It was as though I was leaving behind pieces of my past that should never be revealed to the world, it was like all my burdens had disintegrated.

As I glanced at the sky above it seemed wonderful, stretching endlessly with blue and white. I had thought about all the times I had been afraid of change, and how those moments only kept me standing still, now my heart was beating fast as ever. Now it seemed different this time, like something changed within me...?

The surge inside me had gotten bigger and expressed itself by shooting a warm glow through my body. I had no longer felt that gloom and despair like before while scavenging on the streets. This time it was different, unlike when I first got abandoned or when everyone watched me sink down, this feeling had a shine as it seemed to radiate within me. My expressions had finally felt normal as the word happiness popped out before me, it felt like joy, satisfaction, contentment, and fulfillment. It had given me a meaning in life when nothing else did...

I felt livelier than before, more different. It was like that day changed my life forever. And it did. That day, I had finally for once, had a shining smile that could push away all the darkness forever. I had felt energetic and had an outrageous amount of liveliness which had greeted me and the whole town, everyone and especially me was surprised at my upcoming and had welcomed my new persona with love and warmth.
I finally felt like I belonged.

Breaking Through

Elizabeth Hui (Age 11), Mount Ridley College

"It gives my character a sense of hope and changing her ways and personalities to fit her own self."



Emotional Turmoil

Fateh Mallaya (Age 11), Mount Ridley College

"This artwork represents how society wants us to mask our real emotions and how we really feel inside sometimes."



Emotions and Feelings

Grace Davey (Age 11), St Dominics Primary School

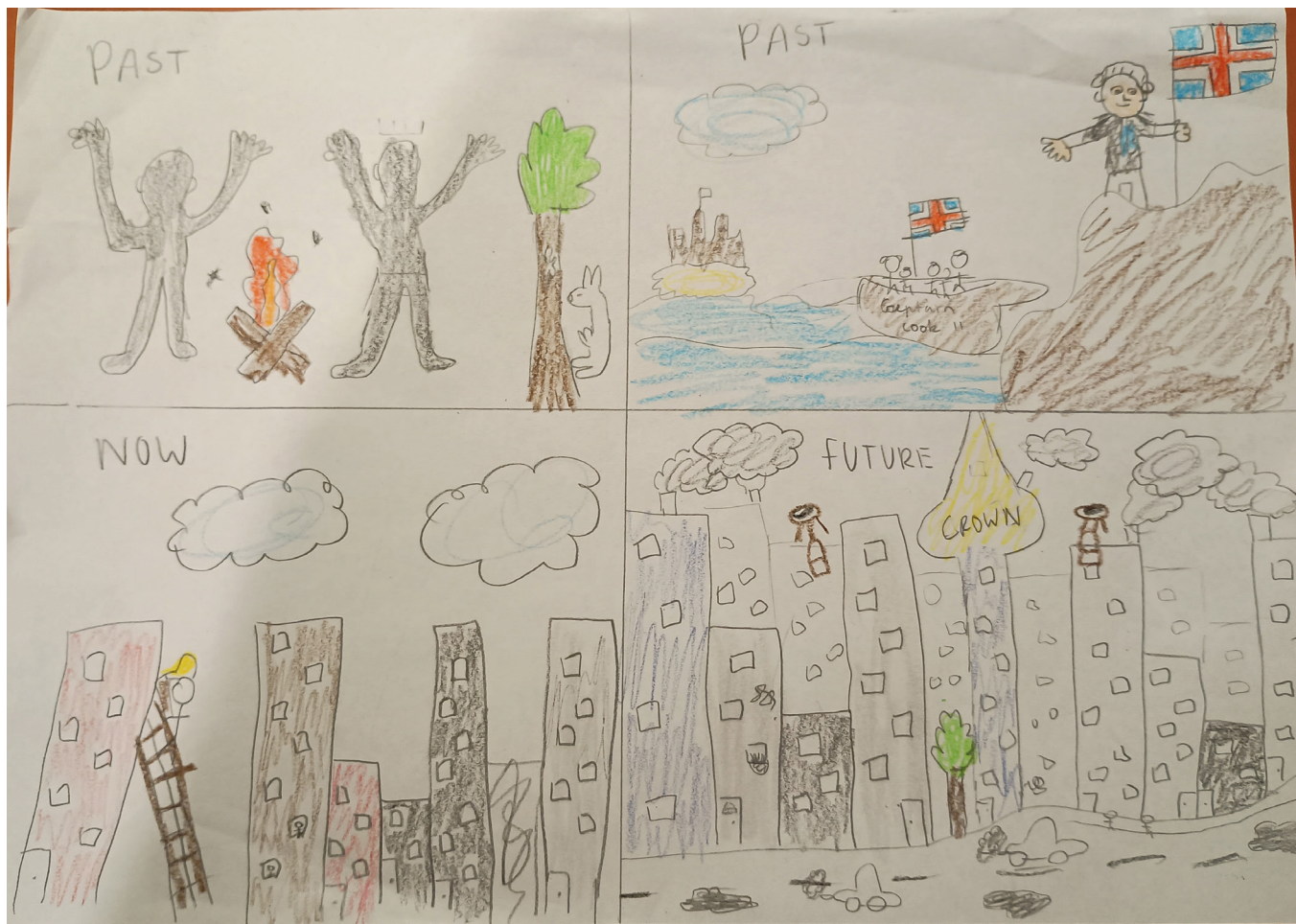
"Changing the attitude towards life can change your emotions and feelings to positive outlook."



The new beginning

Gurashish Singh (Age 11)

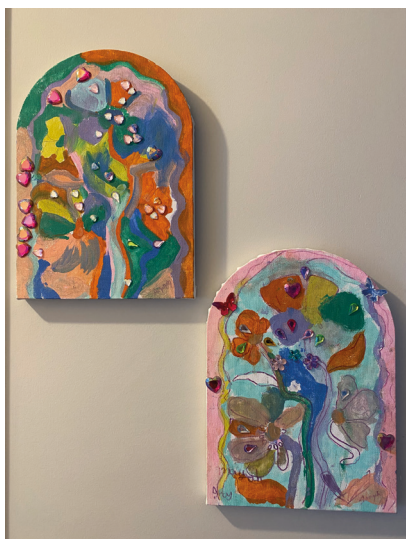
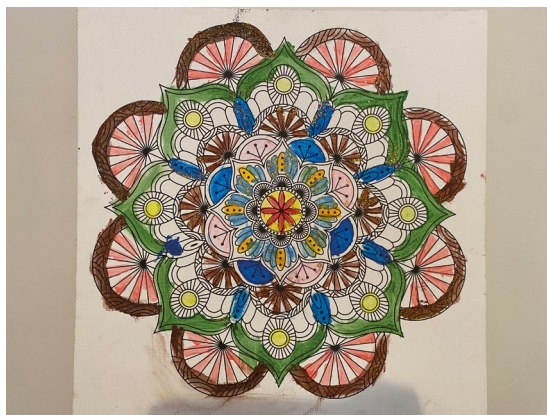
"The girl left her own village to make a career in the big city. The experiences changed her perspective little by little that's what the white represent the black represents her own village and old ways."



Time in Australian History

Imogen Anderson (Age 11), Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Craigieburn

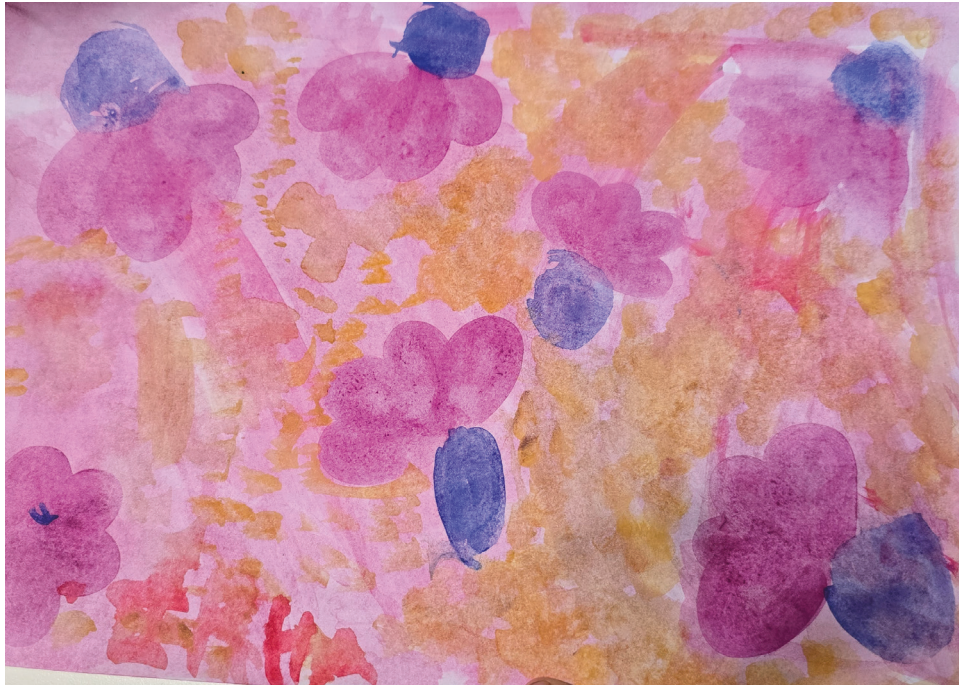
"Because it shows how the world changes in pictures."



Untitled

Inayah Ismail (Age 7)

Inayah's paintings unfold like a journey between endings and new horizons, where colours shift to echo change and fresh possibilities. Each brushstroke captures a quiet moment of growth, reminding us that transformation is both gentle and powerful. Her artwork speaks of beginnings——fragile yet full of promise——like seeds breaking through the soil toward light.



Emotions and Feelings

Irha Owais (Age 8), Mount Ridley College

"Changing the attitude towards life can change your emotions and feelings to positive outlook."



Caterpillars Journey

Jazleen Mallaya (Age 7), Mount Ridley College

"This artwork shows that we need to struggle and work hard to become a better and beautiful version of ourselves."



Thoughts

Judy Ferguson (Age 9), St Carlo Borromeo, Greenvale

"As you get older, you think of different things as you grow through new stages."



Landscapes of Connection

Kaidyn Parker (Age 9), Hume Valley School

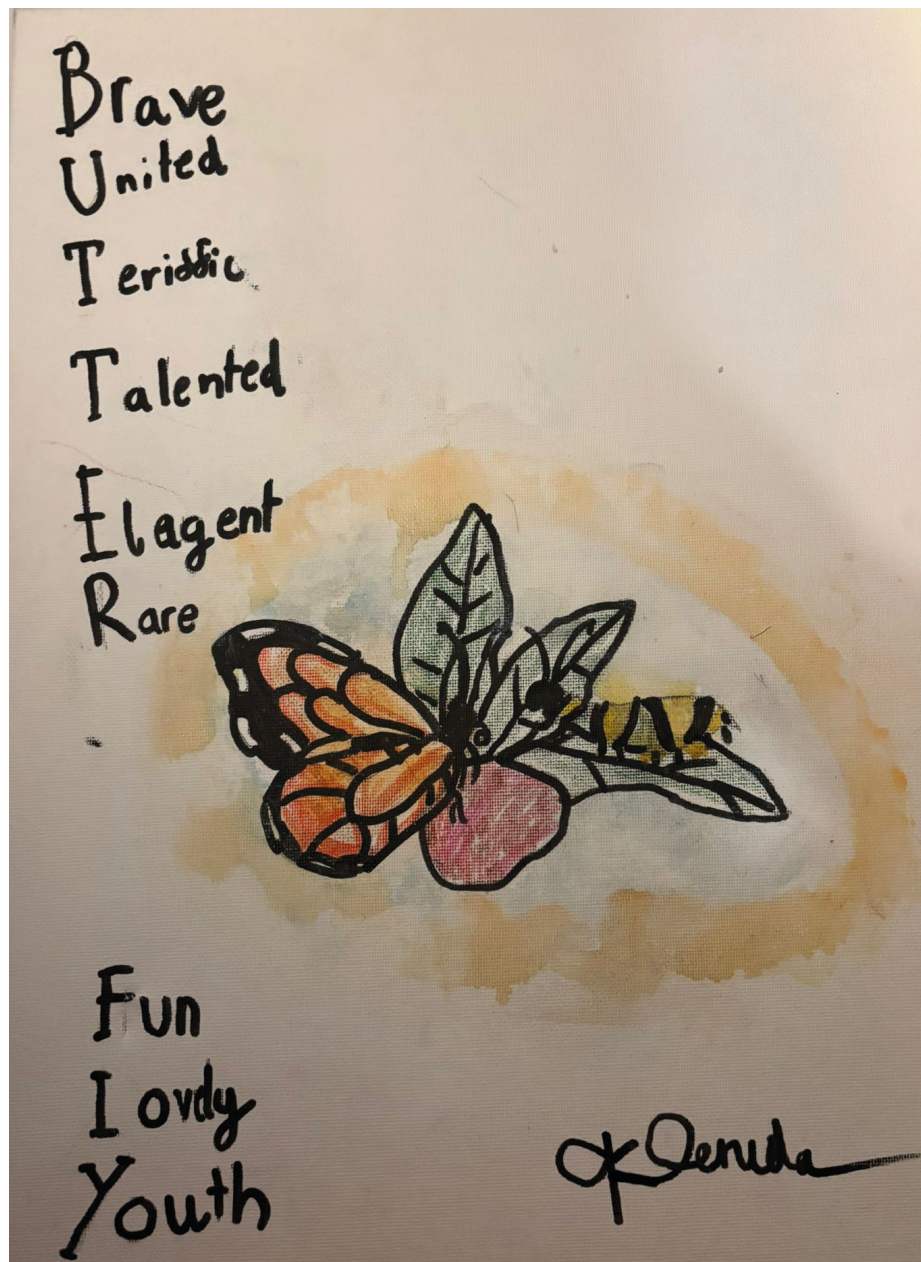
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Sun and moon

Kavya Rimal (Age 10), Broadmeadows Primary School

"When sun becomes moon and moon become sun."



Sun and moon

Kenuda Katawapitiayge (Age 10), Aitken College

"Transformation – The caterpillar represents change in progress. It hasn't yet become what it is meant to be. The butterfly shows the completed transformation, a symbol of growth, new potential, and beauty that comes after change. Beginnings – The flower can symbolize a fresh start or new life. The caterpillar beginning its journey and the butterfly beginning its new stage of life both show that every stage is a beginning of something important. Cycle of life – Together, the caterpillar, butterfly, and flower show that endings lead to new beginnings, and transformation is part of growth."



Hope

Kiara Ulm-Lovell (Age 11), Goonawarra Primary School

"It starts from someone who has no hope in life and struggles, but then they find hope and hope makes them hopeful and the light enters their life as a transformation and new beginning."



Untitled

Koray Kizil (Age 7), Mount Ridley College

"Koray has a great passion for drawing. Sometimes he will draw the same object/picture and add more detail to make it look better. All his drawings are free hand. Sometimes he watches tutorials on YouTube, and sometimes his inspiration comes from other things like his toys, or something he has seen on TV, or an art project they have done at school!"



Landscapes of Connection

Kylah Costello (Age 11), Hume Valley School

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I am Lexi

Lexi Hunt (Age 6), Aitken College

"I am 6 years old, and this represents me learning about light and shade and how it transforms an art piece."



Transformations and Beginnings

Macie Sue Gaetano (Age 10), Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Craigieburn

"As a 10-year-old that loves all forms of art, I am physically and emotionally adapting and growing from different challenges, that create new beginnings. Art is a way I like to express that."



Community Circles

Gladstone Views Primary School group

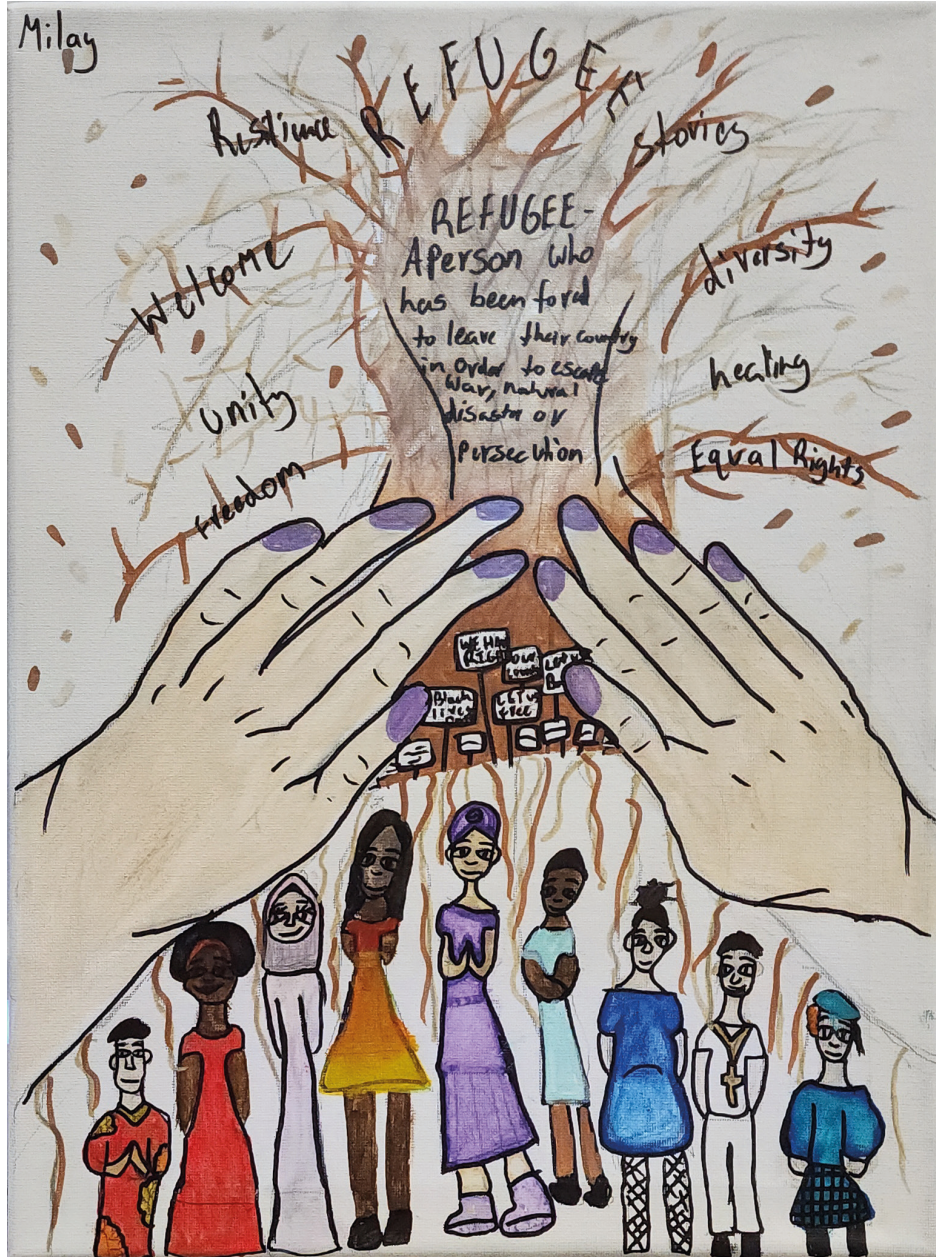
"The artwork is inspired by circles, as a circle represents community — everyone within the circle is connected. Each student decorated an individual piece of a larger circle, and then we joined all the pieces together to symbolize a community coming together. This process reflects the theme of Transformations and Beginnings: individually, each piece starts as its own unique creation (a beginning), but through collaboration, they transform into a unified artwork that represents the strength and beauty of community. In connection with our inquiry into what it means to be part of a community, students explored how individual contributions can lead to something greater when people work together."



Hears to a new beginning

Mia Mingins (Age 10), Roxburgh Homestead Primary School

"A butterfly starts as a caterpillar and turns into a butterfly making it have a new life transforming into a beautiful butterfly have a new beginning."



Untitled

Milay Ozcan (Age 11), Siirus College

"Refugee week art competition winner in collaboration with Advocates for dignity."



Human Life Cycle

Mithara Fernando (Age 8), Newbury Primary School

"How human change from baby to old person."



Tesla Cyber Truck

Mithun Fernando (Age 10), Newbury Primary School

"We go from gas to electricity."

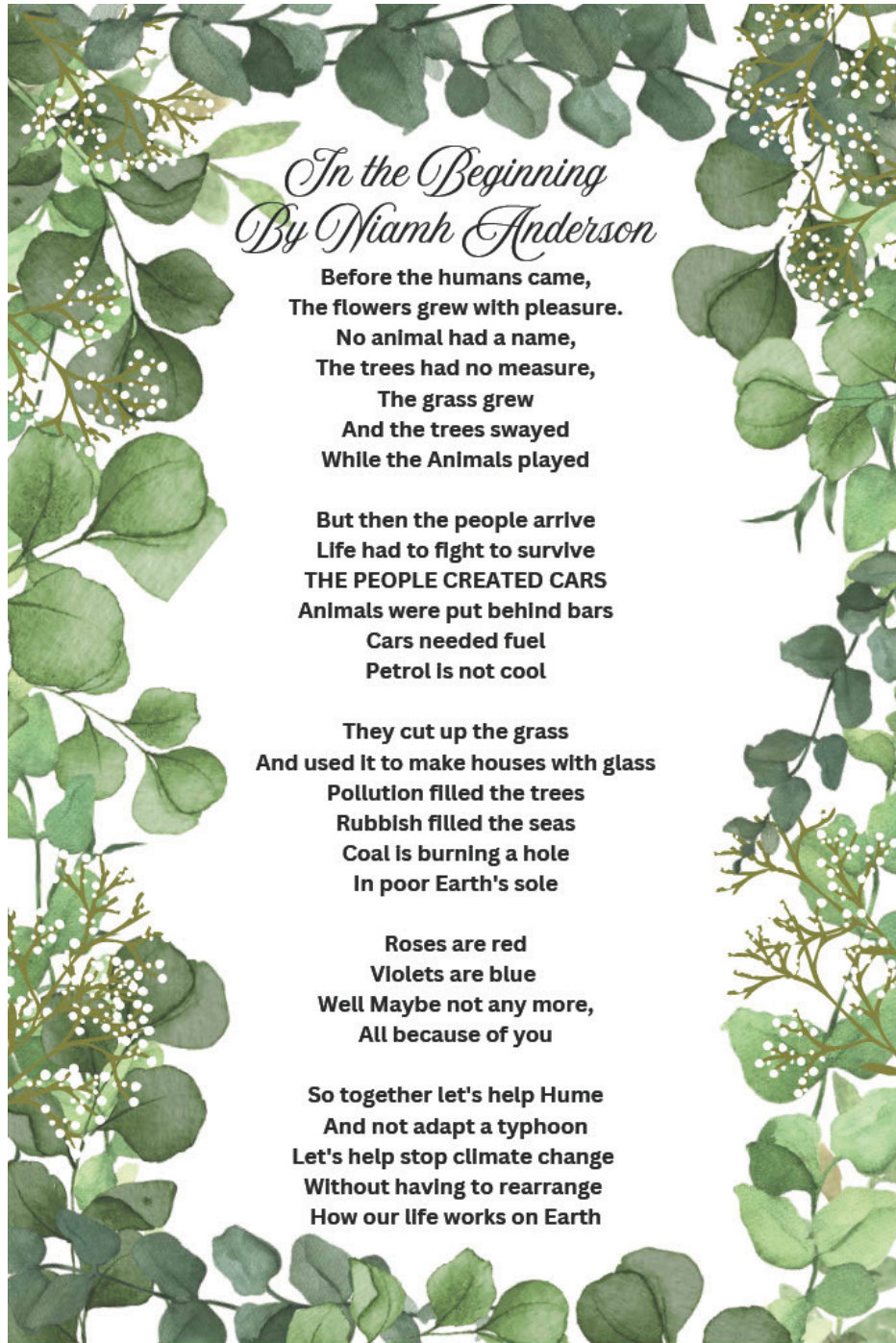


Snow represents being born or a beginning. Then it falls down to earth representing the transformation. Then the sun starts peeping from behind the mountains, melting all the snow which is another transformation. Then if the next night is cold the whole process will happen again.

Snow

Niamh Anderson (Age 11), Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Craigueburn

"Beginning as snow and following the transformation to water."



In the Beginning
By Niamh Anderson

Before the humans came,
The flowers grew with pleasure.
No animal had a name,
The trees had no measure,
The grass grew
And the trees swayed
While the Animals played

But then the people arrive
Life had to fight to survive
THE PEOPLE CREATED CARS
Animals were put behind bars
Cars needed fuel
Petrol is not cool

They cut up the grass
And used it to make houses with glass
Pollution filled the trees
Rubbish filled the seas
Coal is burning a hole
In poor Earth's sole

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Well Maybe not any more,
All because of you

So together let's help Hume
And not adapt a typhoon
Let's help stop climate change
Without having to rearrange
How our life works on Earth

In the Beginning

Niamh Anderson (Age 11), Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Craigieburn

"The transformation of the earth by humans."



Landscapes of Connection

Oliver Shembri (Age 11), Hume Valley School

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Untitled

Owen Ferguson (Age 11), St Carlo Borromeo, Greenvale

"Trees change and birds are a sign of new life and freedom."



Customising your path and new beginnings

Poppy Stephens (Age 10), Westmeadows Primary School

"When you grow older, you always change your interests and likings, you can make new ones and think of your own things. Just like a robot! (And or creature)."



Landscapes of Connection

Priyansh Adhikari (Age 10), Hume Valley School

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siblings

FOUR LITTLE LIGHTS IN MY WORLD SO WIDE,
ONE WALKS WITH WONDER, ONE RUNS WITH PRIDE.
ONE BRINGS CALM LIKE A SOFT-SPOKEN SONG,
ONE BURST WITH LAUGHTER ALL DAY LONG.

ONE PAINTS THE SKY WITH DREAMS SO BRIGHT,
THE OTHER DANCES FROM MORNING TO NIGHT.
DIFFERENT STARTS, YET ALL SHINE TRUE,
A PERFECT PAIR IN ALL THEY DO.

THEY FIGHT, THEY PLAY, THEY LEARN, THEY GROW,
IN WAYS ONLY SIBLINGS EVER KNOW.
A GENTLE HAND, A GUIDING SMILE-
TOGETHER THEY MAKE MY LIFE WORTHWHILE.

SO MAY THEY WALK, THROUGH SUN AND RAIN,
THROUGH JOY, THROUGH TEARS, THROUGH LOSS AND GAIN.
AND MAY THEIR HEARTS FOREVER BE,
A HOME FOR LOVE, AND PEACE, AND ME.

SAMERA EL-ACHKAR.

Siblings

Samera El-Achkar (Age 11), Banskia Gardens community centre, Dallas Brooks Primary School

"Samera is a caring and compassionate child who shared that her little sister and brothers have transformed her life and will always represent a new beginning for her."



Landscapes of Connection

Shanheer Kazmi (Age 11), Hume Valley School

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Landscapes of Connection

Zaki Inam (Age 9), Hume Valley School

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12-18
year olds



Landscapes of Connection

Ahmed Zaatiti (Age 12), Hume Valley School

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Mahavishnu

Aayaan Bhatia (Age 14), Mickleham Secondary College

"Lord Mahavishnu represents preservation and balance, and every new beginning emerges when the old is transformed and harmony is restored — symbolizing hope, renewal, and a fresh start. he breathes out, creating universes and breathes in, ending them."



Beginning

Agam Kaur (Age 16), Kolbe Catholic College

Title: "Where the River Starts Again"
In quiet hours before the dawn,
When shadows stretch and dreams are drawn, A
whisper stirs the sleeping land—
The touch of change, a guiding hand.
From fallen leaves and silent stone,
New roots emerge, unseen, unknown.
What once was still begins to stir,
A seed becomes a voyager.
The past may haunt with tethered chain,
Yet rain will cleanse the oldest stain.
In cracks of ruin, green life grows—
The end of one is where hope sows.
A name once lost, a face once blurred, Reclaimed
in every spoken word.
In shedding skin, we rise anew,
A phoenix fed by morning dew.
So fear not flame, nor edge, nor fall—
Each break becomes a beckoned call.
For in each loss, each aching bend,
The river finds a new descent.
And flowing forward, clear and wide,
We meet ourselves on the other side.
Transformed, reborn, by pain and grace— A soul
returned to its own place.

Where the river starts again

Alisha Sabharwal (Age 13), Aitken College

"The title, "Where the River Starts Again "frames the poem around the idea of renewal. The river starting again is a metaphor for new chapters, even after endings."



Regeneration

Ameera Asri (Age 17), Kangan Institute

"Amongst an everchanging environment, a young deer sheds it's antlers for the first time; undergoing a process called "regeneration", signifying the start of this deer's new beginning."



Restraining of Endless Possibilities.

Analina Podnar (Age 13), Salesian College

"I felt that through time the only way people were able to create something new or transform something old was to open their eyes to opportunities and new possibilities. That the only way to stop us from making something is holding our own selves back, that we are one of the biggest challenges to overcome. I wanted to illustrate that in my work with hands holding down the figure in the middle to stop it from opening their eyes from the world of colour and advanced possibilities around them. I wanted to also represent the vast vicinity of possibilities around the figure so instead of doing something simple in the background I expressed in the background the vast vicinity of space in a way I think of it, colourful and full of places to explore and see."



Garden of Time

Analina Podnar (Age 13), Salesian College

"I felt that a garden would best suit this topic as over time the plants grow within it, changing and becoming new things, a cycle that has always continued through the decades. This can be brought back to art and its different genres because influences, different materials and the different likes or dislikes of the people around has changed art over time in a continuous cycle from past day to modern day I find you will always be finding new and interesting styles that have changed not only the art world but ours to. I also felt that the butterflies as they also represent transformation, I thought they can represent ourselves. In the way butterflies flutter to different flowers we as our human kind look and change the popularity of an art style. The religious symbolism at the top of the piece also plays a big part in our society and the art world as religiousness also plays a large part in changing the way many people create art as a lot of artist (not all) often have religious symbolism in their art pieces."



Untitled

Angel McDonald (Age 15), Sunbury Downs

"The moon symbolises a new day coming. a new beginning."



Expectations of Glass

Astrid Nickel (Age 16), Sunbury Downs College

"My artwork represents breaking free from others expectations and transforming into your true self. The butterfly wings are those of a Holly Blue butterfly as those are said to represent spiritual transformation, personal growth and rebirth."



Bloom through Gloom

Azelya Cayir (Age 14), Greenvale Secondary School

"This piece reflects the emotional transition from sorrow to renewal. The girl sits in a heavy state, her tears marking a past of pain. Yet from her mind bursts a wild, blooming garden. Just like a garden, growth takes time. The flowers remind the viewer that healing is not instant, it takes time. The bottom half reflects the weight of gloom, while the top half shows the slow but undeniable bloom of hope."



Genesis

Aziz Ozgun (Age 16), Hume Central Secondary College

"My digital painting 'genesis' shows a person in an empty crowd at a theatre watching the stage, seeing his future self-perform and dance. This is the story of him beginning his journey to becoming a performer and the transformative power of art."



The book of becoming

Bianca Barbaro (Age 12), Penola Catholic College

"My submission relates to the theme Transformations and Beginnings because it shows how opening a book is both the start of a new journey and the spark of transformation. The character begins with simple words on a page, but through imagination, those words transform into entire worlds, ideas, and possibilities. Books have the power to begin new adventures and to transform the way we see ourselves and the world."



Formless

Chanel Kako (Age 16), Kolbe Catholic College

"The blue sky and pristine clouds represent a clean slate with endless possibilities while the nosebleed and tear evoke physical transformations and changes within ourselves through pain and raw emotion. The red billowing ribbon cutting through the sky represents a transition and new chapter against the openness of the sky."



New beginnings

Christopher Youhana (Age 12), Roxburgh Park Homestead Primary School

"In the first box it's Chris's first day of school and he is introducing himself and in the second which is a month after he is practicing his reading and in the third that's when he makes his first friend and in July four months later he is practicing again but this time with a friend and in the lucky last box he is their with his friend hanging about Chris's friend tells him that is English has gotten better and Chris reply's with a thank and that his friend is awesome this relates because Chris is starting a new beginning and he is transforming into a better person."



Finding Peace

Elizabeth Sullivan (Age 15), Sunbury Downs College

"I believe it relates to the theme by showing a new beginning as you end up finding a peaceful balance in life, if you would like to see more of my photos follow my Instagram @elizabeth_photography7."



Finding Peace

Elizabeth Sullivan (Age 15), Sunbury Downs College



New Beginnings

Emily Daniels (Age 15)

"Showing a younger version to adult version transforming into a better version of themselves."



Look for Light

Emily Tso (Age 12) Greenvale Secondary School

"My submission relates to the theme 'transformations and beginnings' by showing a person that was in the dark and suffered but then eventually finding light and happiness. So, this represents transforming to a happier version of yourself and the beginning of a new and fresh start in your life."

Celebrating 201 years of dinosaurs.

A heavy hand reinforced with reptilian claws clamped down onto the rocky surface beneath, clinging to the stone and dirt of the cliff's edge. Two strong hind legs extended, rising a large scaled body into the first glistens of light from dawn's yellow sun. A thick, heavy, squamate-like tail dragged across the dirt-covered surface beneath the creature. The shadow of darkness cast by the forefront of a cave wall hid the crocodilian-like snout of the creature, supported by a thick muscular neck, hanging low just above the rocky terrain. As the scaly body lumbered itself further across the rock surface of the cave, the Megalosaurus raised its imposing skull into the early rays of sunlight as it stepped further out onto the cliff's edge. Nostrils flared at the tip of the animals' snout as it deeply inhaled the damp Jurassic air, wind echoing as it entered the creatures' hefty lungs. The razor, pointed teeth outlined long, thin jaws of the goliath, jagged and jarring, sticking out of the locked mandible like the metal spikes of a steel bear trap.

A three-toed foot clammed down onto the rock beneath the creature as it began its lumber down from the rocky edge towards the valley below. A short, stumpy tail dragged and weaved through the stone edges leading down the cave. Pronated hands yielded three clawed fingers, long and outstretched at the front of the animal's frame. Its skull, bulky and wrinkled, held high up into the air, razor-like teeth decorating the perimeter of the creature's wide gape, the sharp row running all the way to the mouth buccal. Long, sturdy legs held the animal's posture upright and vertical, its giant body hunched and mounted with a thick, stubby neck. Its skin, wrinkled and folded, shook as its body moved, embellished within reptilian scales. A thick, rigid brow perched at the apex of the creature's dome kept its small, reptilian eyes shielded from the elements. The Megalosaurus, slouched and with a hanging face moved with immense effort, taking step after step, each foot landing with a thump as the surface beneath seamlessly transitioned from rough granite to delicate prehistoric ferns. The soft earth beneath the three toed claws sunk gradually into the ground, leaving a trail of bird-like footsteps behind the path of the titan.

Celebrating 201 years of dinosaurs

Ethan Facciol (Age 18) Kolbe Catholic College

"It shows the history of dinosaurs, showing how our interpretation of these creatures has changed over the 201 years of their discovery."

As the Jurassic sun gently caressed the distant prehistoric cliffs across the lush, peaceful valley, young rays of glimmering light shone upon the smoothly scaled body of the animal. A thick, sturdy tail lifted high off of the ground, balanced the creature as it moved, swaying and rocking with each light stride it took. The animal's frame, positioned horizontally with its strong, muscular legs situated directly underneath its barrel-like body allowed the animal to move swiftly through the deserted plains. Thick and muscular forearms hung below the creature's chest, long fingers tipped with upwards curved claws that faced inwards towards each other. Soft earth beneath its three-toed feet sank deeper as the animal moved closer to a gentle stream which cut through the valley, glistening from the early specs of morning sunlight. Slowly lowering its robust skull, the Megalosaurus kept its eyes sharp, scanning its surroundings as its head reached near the running water's surface. The animal's shut muzzle with soft tissue coverings kept its serrated teeth hidden from sight until opening its deadly gape. Submerging its bottom jaw into the stream, water rushed into and flooded the chambers of its mandibles and the creature lifted its mighty head, allowing the river to flow down its throat. Cocking its neck like a bird, the dinosaur, isolated within the valley, continued its drink alone and in peace under the early sun.

Celebrating 201 years of dinosaurs

Ethan Facciol (Age 18) Kolbe Catholic College



Celebrating 201 years of dinosaurs

Ethan Facciol (Age 18) Kolbe Catholic College



Reflections

Eve Trpeski (Age 12) Aitken College

"This artwork explores the theme of transformation and new beginnings. The mirror becomes a symbolic space where the younger self gazes back, carrying with it memories, traits, and stories that continue to shape identity. As time passes, the past remains an integral part of the self, yet transformation requires renewal. The work reflects the tension between remembering and moving forward, acknowledging that growth often begins with letting go and starting anew."

A Glimmer of Hope

Drops of rain rolled down the window of my car. The trees swayed from side to side. Grey clouds gathered in the sky, and flashes of lightning startled me. The wind echoed with thunder. I was making the decision I never thought I would have to face. Tears rolled down my cheeks as the thought kept entering and exiting my mind. My heart sank when I saw my friends for the last time. I knew it was not my fault—it was not anyone's fault. If my parents had not taken that new job, I would not be suffering like this.

I had to leave my childhood home, school, and friends—all because of my parents' new job. This was my first home. It was hard to leave behind all the memories and step into a new life. The rain became torrential, and my heart filled with rising panic as I realised the new town was calling my name. It was impossible to believe this would be my life now. I would have to finish my high school years here. I even had to leave my cricket club—the sport I was most passionate about. I did not even know if this new town had a cricket team.

The pain worsened when I realised, I was finally here. I glanced out the window at my new home, in an unfamiliar town. With no spark of excitement, the car door swung open. I stepped out. Standing on the porch, I grasped the doorknob, hesitating. I twisted it slowly, revealing the secrets hidden beneath the blanket of this new life. I could not help but want to turn back. I regretted it all. I had lost my passion, my friends—my entire life. It felt like everything was over.

Then the worst moment arrived: bedtime. Sleeping in my new room did not bring the same feeling as my old house. I lay awake, overthinking, dreading the next day—my first day at the new school. It was a gloomy night. Finally, after hours of restless thoughts, I fell asleep.

The next morning came. My first day of school. I got ready, ate breakfast, and left the house—each moment as dull and heavy as the last.

Then the moment came.

With my eyes on the floor and embarrassment weighing me down, I stepped into the classroom—nervous and anxious. I sat next to a group of girls who had a spare seat beside them. I did not know what they would think about sitting next to me. Everyone's eyes were on me. The teacher addressed me. Thankfully, no one said anything unkind, but nothing about this school reminded me of home. There were no flashbacks, no comforting memories.

A Glimmer of Hope

Gunreet Kaur (Age 13) Aitken College

"My submission of a short story expresses the challenges people may have to overcome when starting a new life elsewhere and in new places."

At lunch, I grabbed a chair and sat alone. No one wanted to sit next to me. Strangely, I thought that was a good thing. Just as I was about to finish my lunch, a voice called from behind.

“Do you want to play cricket with us? We are one player short.”

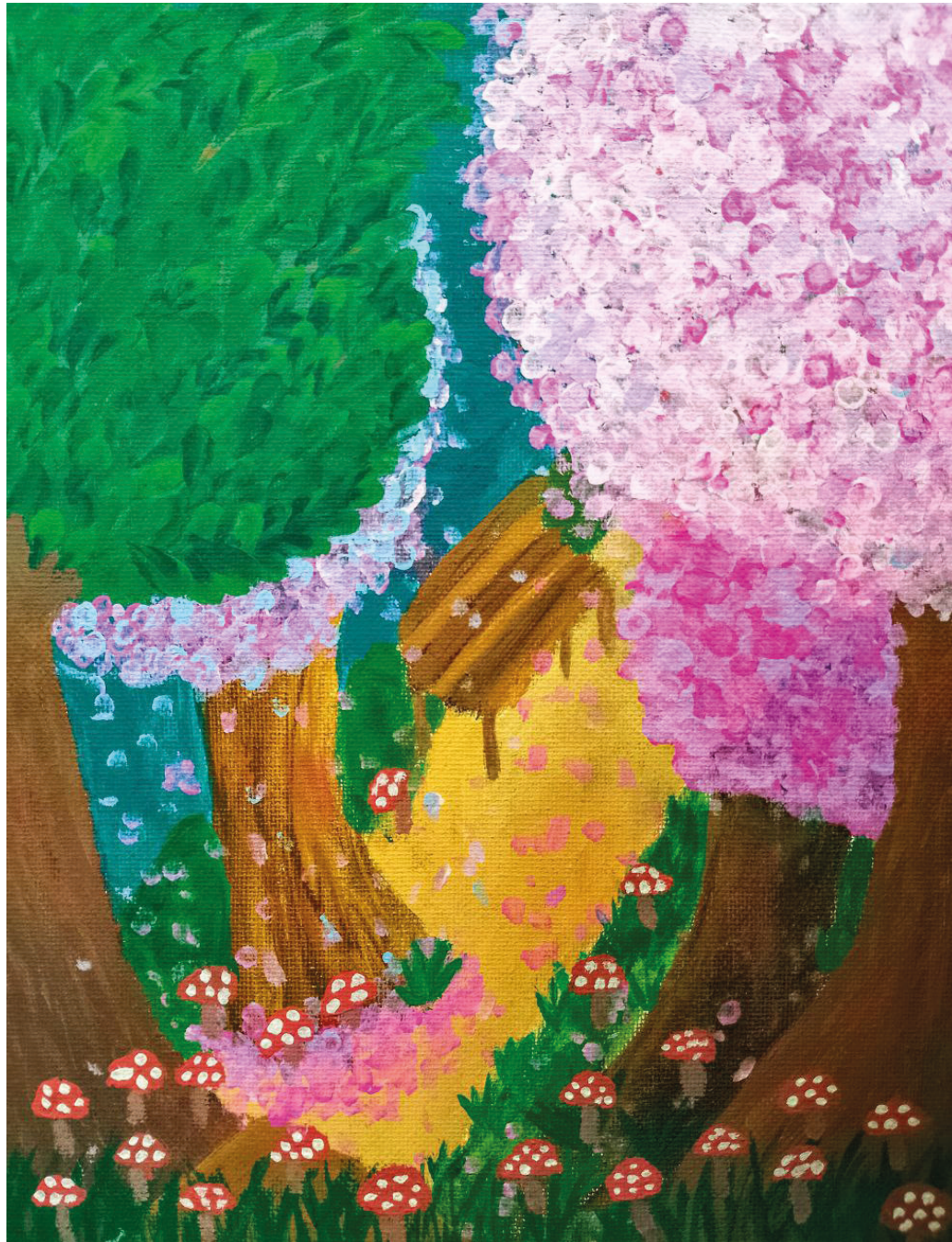
My lack of confidence made the moment awkward, but I replied with a quiet “yes” and stood up slowly, heart pounding. The game helped take a few thoughts off my chest, and for the first time in days, I felt cheerful. I walked over to the group of students holding cricket bats, introduced myself, and joined in.

I thought to myself, *“Maybe... just maybe, it’s not as bad as I thought.”*

Cricket. It was my sport. My passion. My escape from reality. I gripped the bat, and for the first time since I arrived...a glimmer of hope sparked me.

A Glimmer of Hope

Gunreet Kaur (Age 13) Aitken College



Spring Transformation

Hadija Muzaffar (Age 15) Kangan Institute

"This acrylic painting shows the beauty of spring. The flowering blossoms that will later turn into fruit, tells us how everything begins and transforms into something beautiful and delicious when we are patient and keep up the hard work. The path shows that we have to start our own journey of transformation by taking the first step."



Getting Ready for Transformation

Hadija Muzaffar (Age 15) Kangan Institute

"The bright full moon shows the majestic peak of a lunar cycle indicating that a new phase is about to begin. By looking at the ocean and the moon we can see that nothing stays the same and every end transforms into a new beginning. The stillness of the night is a great time to prepare for the dawn of transformations and beginnings."

Hold On...

Palestine From the Eyes of a Five Year Old

I run to my mom,
I ask, "Will that deafening noise come?"

"Don't worry dear," she says her hug enveloping me,
She wipes her tears thinking I didn't see.

She has dark purple circles around her eyes,
From all the sleepless nights crying to the almighty above the skies.

She picks me up and rushes to the basement,
Where I heard a thundering sound like an elephant.

My mother looks at me wide eyed,
Saying, "Alhamdulillah, we are alright."

As my mother opens the door,
Rubbish and debris floods the basement floor.

She says, "Indeed, this is Allah's and to him we will return."
She starts to pray as my heart starts to burn.

I look at her, she is praying beautifully,
Crying silently.

After praying she picks me up and start crawling through the rubbish,
Squirring like a nearly dead fish.

When we at last finish our rubbish trekking,
I realize my mother is shivering.

She has wrapped her own coat around me, covering every bit,
Just for me to stay warm and fit.

I ask, "Where is dad?"
My mother looks really sad.

Hold On... Gaza From the Eyes of a Five Year Old

Hadija Igamberdieva (Age 15) Kangan Institute

"This Poem shows a child's struggle for survival in Gaza. After the atrocities he has lived through, his mother's improvement gives him hope to start a new beginning and transform his and his mother's life for the better. Although this story is fictional, atrocities worse than this are happening every day in Gaza. There are too many orphans in Gaza who wish to start a new life but can't. Please always be on their side with whatever support you can give them, whether it is through spreading awareness, boycotting or donating."

She rushes into a building,
Waits for a long time and asks a person something.

As soon as she gets her answer, she slumps on a chair,
And starts showing me extra care.

“Where’s dad,” I ask,
Between sobs she replies, “He went to complete a very difficult task.”

I ask, “When will we see him?”
Mother replies, “When the time comes, we will go to him.”

Mother takes my hand,
Together, we walk on the blood stained sand.

We stand in a long line of people,
Some are young while others are old and feeble.

“I am hungry,” I say,
She says, “Wait a bit, we will get bread to keep the hunger at bay.”

From the dark grey clouds I see a spark as bright as the sun,
I see a round object hurtling toward me so I run.

As I run, something hits me and everything turns black,
With my wobbly legs I stand up when my consciousness is back.

I look to see all the dead people around me and start to cry petrified,
I cry until the morning turns into evening and still no one notices I cried.

As I sit beside my mother I think she is dead,
But her rising and falling chest and bloated stomach tells me she is alive but not fed.

You might be thinking how I know this,
It is because of all my dead siblings I miss.

One from hunger,
Other for defending himself against zionists with anger.

Where is the world!
My father told me there were trillions of people around the world.

Hold On... Gaza From the Eyes of a Five Year Old

Hadija Igamberdieva (Age 15) Kangan Institute

I know I have to find food and water for my mother,
I won't let her perish like my father.

I stand up and start walking toward an abandoned well,
My father has forbid me to approach any well in case I fell,

But this is an emergency case,
I know I can't bare to live without seeing my mothers smiling face.

I carefully lower the bucket,
I turn the handle, but it's so rusty, it makes a racket.

The heavy bucket is too hard to lift and turn,
I wouldn't have the strength if my heart wasn't experiencing severe burn.

I navigate in the night back to my mother using stars to locate south,
I drink some water and dab some on to my mothers mouth.

I then realize I am still wearing the coat she had put on me,
I take it off, lie down next to my mother and with the coat, cover my mother and me.

I cry myself to sleep,
I wake up in the morning and weep.

I know I have to scavenge for food,
Even though I am not in a good mood.

I carefully enter the blackened and abandoned bakery,
The whole place looks like a place of misery.

I slip into the back room hoping something has survived,
But the whole place looks fried.

There were breads, blackened ones of course,
The bomb must have hit with a mighty force.

I break a blackened bread in two,
Hoping there will be something inside for the stomach too.

Thankfully, there is a tiny piece of edible bread,
I chose to give it to my mother probably on the death bed.

Hold On... Gaza From the Eyes of a Five Year Old

Hadija Igamberdieva (Age 15) Kangan Institute

I run to my mom,
I try to push the bread through, but it is stuck on her gum.

My mother starts coughing so I have to eat it,
I got every piece of bread, every single bit.

I try to make some fire to drink some warm water,
But fire can't be made with mud sloshing around like thick butter.

I drag my mother on to a higher surface,
I drag her into a crevice where visibility is less.

Just then I feel my mother is shivering and hot,
I put a cloth on her head using water a lot.

Just then I see soldiers marching up the road,
Scrutinising everywhere in genocide mode.

I dare not breath nor whimper,
For our family would be destroyed and nobody would know a whisper.

The soldiers storm the streets, ordered to kill anybody alive,
If they find me, I will be dead before I count to five.

I hide till they pass,
Because they continue killing people amass.

Soon my mother stops shivering and becomes cold,
Tears spring to my eyes, I did what I could but I can't be bold.

I lie down next to her hugging her as I cry,
I don't care if the soldiers hear me cry.

I feel a soft pat on my head,
I look up to see my mother smiling and fed.

She says, "Hold on, Allah is on our side,
He will grant us success with his might."

*Do not lose hope, nor be sad. You will surely be victorious if you are true believers."
(3:139)*

Hold On... Gaza From the Eyes of a Five Year Old

Hadija Igamberdieva (Age 15) Kangan Institute



Handmade Ribbon rose Bouquet with Ferrero Rocher

Hanan Haddad (Age 16) Roxburgh College

"My handmade ribbon rose bouquet with Ferrero Rochers relates to the theme "Transformations and Beginnings" because it turns simple materials like ribbon and chocolate into something beautiful and meaningful. This transformation shows creativity and growth. The bouquet can also represent new beginnings, such as a celebration, a fresh start, or a special moment in someone's life. It's a symbol of how something small can become something special."



Self-Sabotage

Hanna Visagie (Age 15) Salesian College

"Because it shows the transformation of stinging your own heart in self-sabotage."

A New Beginning

She had the biggest smile,
a dense and cheeky grin,
Her dimples always said 'hello',
her eyes were cheerful but dim.
She loved the thought of pigs,
her quirky sense oh humour,
she'll throw on a top hat and a fake moustache,
just to feel that glamour.

She had hair, dark like the night sky,
but the personality of the sun,
she was confident, bright and shared a warmth,
she was selfless and always fun.
I will never forget how kind she was,
her compassion and generosity,
but as time flies and people move away,
it all feels like its gone.

High school, a new start,
why does it feel this way?
why does it feel like I have no air,
Why is there so much pain?
New people, new campus,
my hands uncontrollably shaking,
Why does it feel like a storm has entered my chest,
like all my bones are braking?

I want to go back, back to my old school,
where she'll be there, waiting,
I want to hear her bubbly laugh,
To see her cheekily smiling.
But as we grow up, things start to change,
we don't play on the playground in parks anymore,
we don't read books with pictures,
we don't drink tea from little plastic cups,
we don't sleep with our baby blankets.
New school, new friends,
nothing lasts forever,
but even if nothing stays the same,
things will get better.

Like butterflies, we leave our old life,
have a fresh new start,
sometimes we struggle in the cocoon,
not knowing how to feel or who we are.
But as we adjust to this new beginning,
to a new sense of self,
we'll spread out wings and fly away,
to find our true selves.



A New beginning

Hannah Dengler (Age 13) Aitken college

"It's a poem dedicated to a new beginning that many 13-year-olds face. It shows how one can adjust to new beginnings and a new sense of self."



I went to High School

Harnav Singh (Age 12) Aitken college

"I drew my transition from primary school to high school. I realised how I have started playing with different things while growing up too."

Little Miss Perfect

Little Miss Perfect: the girl who can do everything and aspires to be able to achieve anything. Not only does the world expect her to be perfect, but she expects herself to perfect. Little kids run up to her and tell her they want to be exactly like her she does not have enough time to warn them though, so she just smiles and nods. She cannot be understood by anyone apart of the reason is because she cannot truly understand herself. She does not know why she cannot control her overly sensitive self and her harsh words towards her performance athletically or academically. It is starting to hurt her mentally and sometimes physically. Will she continue to hang on? Who knows, but it does not matter every good story has a plot.

She wants to succeed in life and make everyone proud but is starting to question what success really is. She wants to run away to some country and take nothing, because maybe getting lost is the answer to finding herself. However, obviously like any good story she does not figure it out in time because now it has been defined for her by the people surrounding her.

A perfect family, exquisite house, and a job is what she has to desire but she still wonders what is out there and what success and happiness really is. People often tell her she has potential but as always, this potential cannot be unlocked until she is turned completely inside out. Her thoughts, feelings and personality are slowly fading away from her and what remains is being ripped apart. Now she has grown up she wants to study law, business, medicine, criminology or psychology she cannot help herself but maybe she can help others, because those who once failed now succeed and somehow they are the ones teaching. She feels sorry for everyone when she stands in their presence. Possibly the right person, definitely the wrong time. The spotlight always shines brighter on her sister in every way; it barely touches her. Too stupid to be smart, too smart to be stupid. If life was not a competition, why was it so competitive? Good at everything great at nothing, there is always the dark before the light but what happens if her whole life has been dark? No one pushes her and congratulates her; she wakes up every day depressed to face another day of pushing herself. She is tired; she does not know how much longer she can keep going. She blames everything on the pressure or maybe deep down she cannot handle the pressure. But it is okay as they all say you have the rest of your life and one moment does not make you who you are, but she finds it funny that one missed moment does. Deep down all she really wants is for someone to look her in the eyes and say they are proud of her, while knowing just how empty she feels inside. Whenever someone asks her if she is okay, she just starts to cry, they do not understand why but she can't help it. So much happens behind the scenes no one ever sees, they just expect her to be okay, and I guess over time she expected it from herself too.

Little Miss Perfect

Himaya Colombathantri (Age 13) Aitken College

"The piece "Little Miss Perfect" captures the perspective of a girl seen as capable, independent and flawless. However, beneath the surface of this picture-perfect girl is a deeply conflicted and exhausted version unravelling due to the pressure of other people's expectations and her experiences. This piece allows readers to understand and connect with the struggle of perfection, identity, and comparison, as well as the relentless battle with mental health and emotions that are not able to be expressed easily. This links to the theme of "New beginnings and transformations" as the story follows her challenges all the way through to her healing. This includes the dramatic change from her self-destruction to reclaiming her identity, while unveiling the new version of herself that comes with her new beginning built from the shattered pieces of her past."



Shattering the past

Inayat Kaur Sandhu (Age 13) Aitken College

"My submission explores the theme of transformation and beginnings, reflecting on how change can be both destructive and liberating. I wanted to show this complexity by adding cracks in the woman's body, symbolizing how transformation can gradually consume and break down an individual. The woman's body is marked by dark, black cracks, representing the pain that often accompany change. Yet, from the cracks, lotus flower grows, symbolizing rebirth and renewal. Transformation, to me, is always tied to the process of renewal—of shedding the old and stepping into a new phase, despite the darkness of the journey. The background of the piece is pure black, with stark white cracks running through it. This contrast symbolizes the world around us, the external chaos, darkness, and uncertainty that can often accompany change (represented by the black background) versus the potential for clarity, purity, and enlightenment (represented by the white cracks). The white cracks in the dark background suggest that even in the most challenging or chaotic times. As a person with an Indian background, the lotus flower has deep spiritual significance in my country. It represents purity, even as it grows in murky waters. The lotus serves as a reminder that no matter how difficult life may become, there is always a part of us that can remain untouched and pure. There are also dogwood flowers included in the piece symbolize rebirth and strength. The dogwood's resilience in the face of adversity mirrors the inner strength needed to navigate a constantly changing world. The woman represents this strength—she has gone through immense transformation yet still stands strong. The cracks in her body are not just signs of decay; they are the very portals through which her renewal occurs. At the bottom of the piece there are two water lilies. These water lilies represent the beauty that can arise from change. They symbolize the quiet grace that emerges once the storm has passed and the beauty that can be found in transformation. Even though the process of change can be hard, it also brings moments of peace and serenity."



Sunset Blooming Flights

Irmak Balkaya (Age 16) Aitken College

"The piece is a mixed media piece, involving 3D elements. The common imagery of butterflies in themes of change is popular, butterflies are beautiful and loved. However, moths are typically seen as the opposite, often considered dirty and something to be fearful of. I feel the use of moths perfectly encompasses the theme of transformation, because transformation means change, and while change can be beautiful it's also scary. Transformation and therefore change is frankly a terrifying experience, involving hard choices that shape who we are as people. I feel moths capture this idea perfectly, as in contrast to butterflies they aren't considered beautiful, they are considered messy and scary. That is transformation. Secondly the use of lilies and the woman as the primary focus of this piece. In this piece lilies reflect nature, nature is a force that is never still, nature is constantly moving and changing, as are people. This piece reflects the nature of transformation from girl to woman, the flowers are blooming, the moths represent that it's not considered a beautiful transformation but it can be one, the transformation from girl to woman is difficult and scary it's filled with hard moments and difficult choices that will leave cracks, however this image reflects that it also marks new beginnings and how that transformation marks the beginning."



Young Love

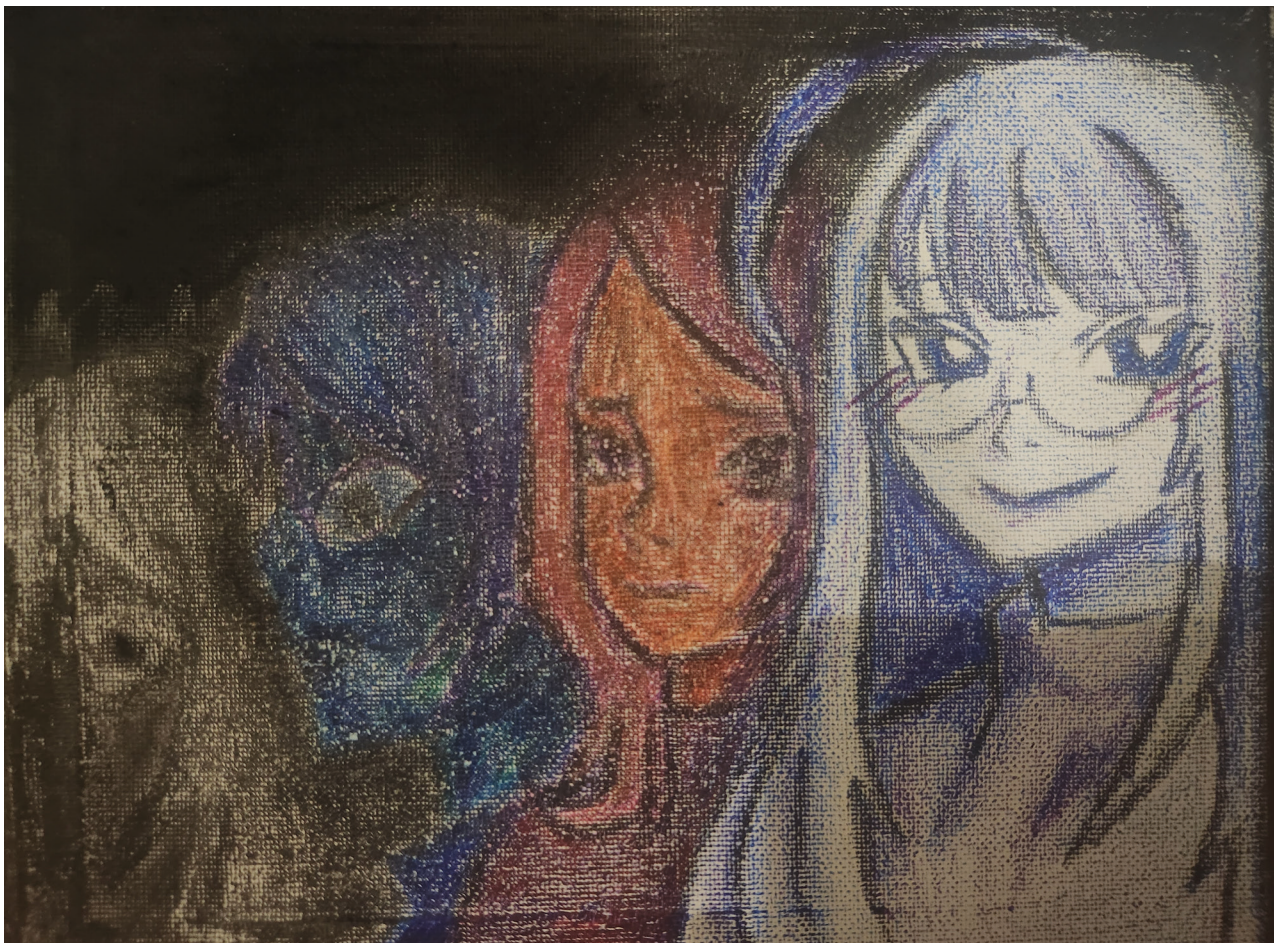
Isabelle O'Shannessy (Age 18) Sunbury Downs College



Genesis of Colour

Karren Sekhon (Age 13) Aitken College

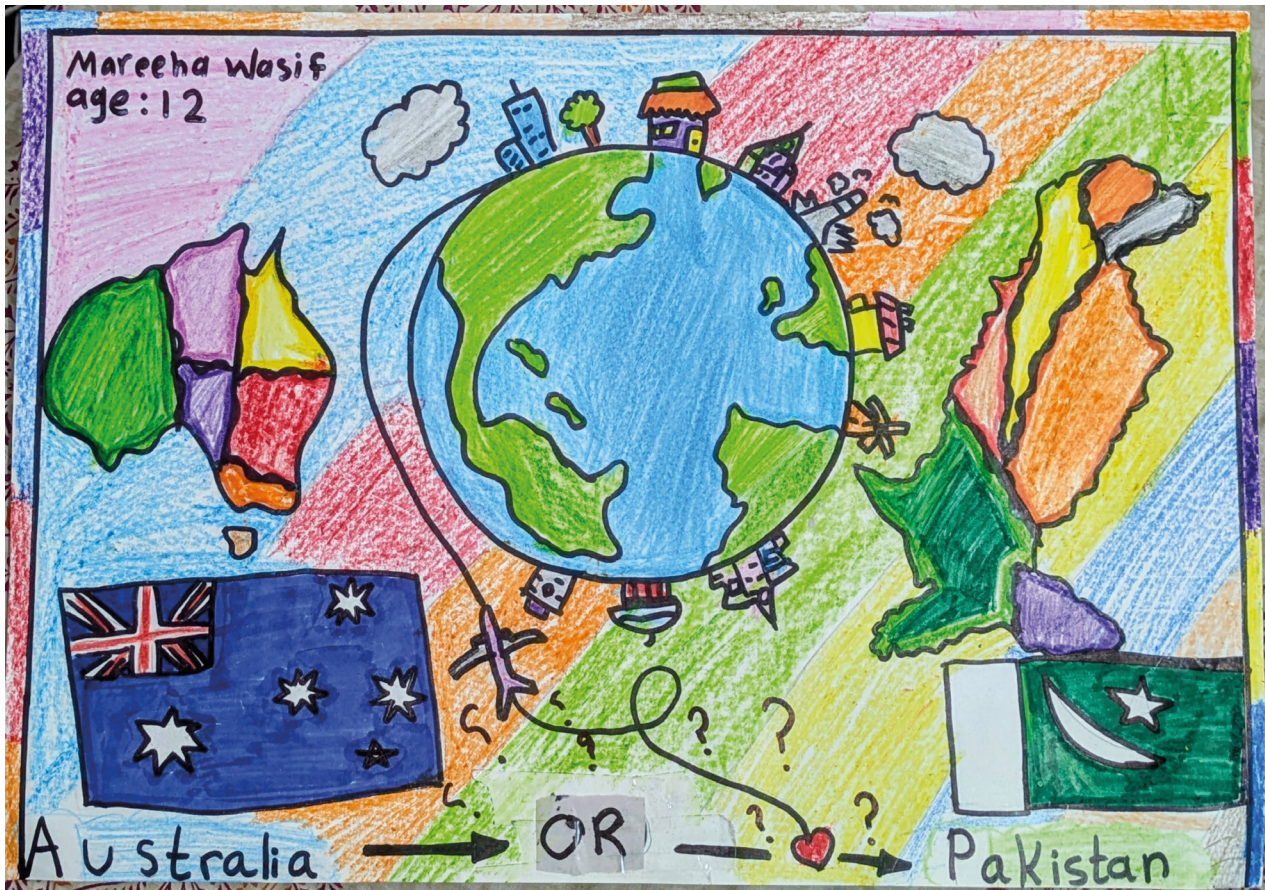
"This image relates to "Transformation and Beginning" by showing a chrysalis turning into a butterfly and a seed sprouting, symbolising renewal, with the sunrise and spiritual symbols reflecting a universal, harmonious start across cultures."



Untitled

Mackenzie Lovell (Age 13) Sunbury College

"It relates to the theme of transformation and beginnings because it starts as a dark colour and transforms to a bright colour. Showing that people can change even if they have made the wrong decisions in life."



Untitled

Mareeha Qureshi (Age 12) Broadmeadows Primary School

"The idea of my transformation from Pakistan to Australia which is a new beginning for me."

A New beginning

By - Mia Sutton

I sit, slumped in the backseat of the car, gazing out the window as my mind swirls like a storm that only continues to rage on. My knee bounces, and hands fidget in my lap before gripping onto the seatbelt, anchoring myself in fear that if I didn't, my crumbling world would shatter even more.

"What if this place never feels like home?" I whisper to myself. My heart feels as though it has been fragmented into thousands of tiny, sharp shards. Why did we have to move away?

Mum slows the car, coming to a halt in front of my new school. Judging by the pitiful look on her face, she can tell I am nervous.

She reaches her arm back to me and squeezes my sweaty hand tightly.

"I know you're nervous, Jacob, but you will be fine."

I bite my lips, straining back a hysterical laugh. 'Fine?' Nothing about this feels 'fine.' I climb out of the car, my head oppressed by pure terror and dread. Anxiety floods through my veins like poison. The chatter of students and the sound of my heartbeat is all I can hear as I walk towards the entrance.

Once I step inside, my day officially begins.

The first day of school is what I expected: lonely, already getting picked on by the popular boys and girls. Suffocated under mountains of homework and no newfound friendships or mutual acquaintances in sight.

As I drag my tired body down the empty hallway of the house that is now meant to be called my home, I head to the kitchen in search of food, before stumbling across a bright green community notice letter lying on the kitchen bench. Curious, I pick it up:

"Greenvale Community youth project group - Every Wednesday starting at 6pm."

Just as I finish reading it, Mum sneaks out from behind me. She shares a soft smile.

"Honey, I think that you should go. Maybe you'll make some new friends! Plus today's Wednesday!"

I stare at my mum, biting the inside of my cheek.

"What if I don't meet anyone, Mum? What if no one likes me?"

She places a delicate, loving hand on my shoulder.

"Honey, you never know until you try."

She says, her green eyes gazing supportively into mine.

"I...I don't know." I murmur, my head drooping down to the ground.

"Please, Jay, just for me?"

A New Beginning

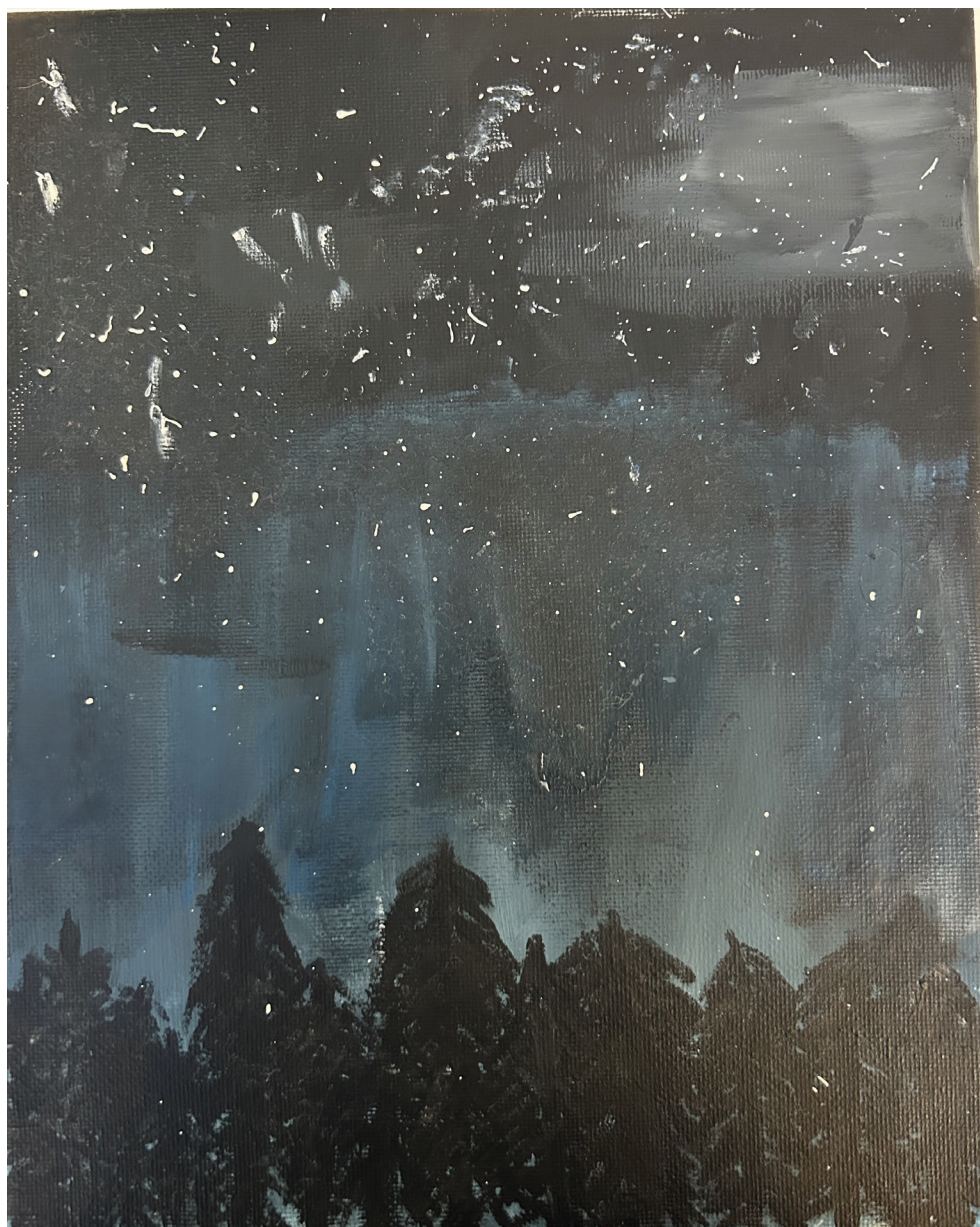
Mia Sutton (Age 15) Aitken College

"Beginning, relates to the theme Transformations and Beginnings through the protagonist Jacob. Jacob goes through a significant emotional journey as he transitions into a new community, where he is torn apart by isolation and anxiety. Despite his inner turmoil, a turning point arises when he reluctantly attends a community youth project group. Here, he creates new bonds and friendships, helping he regains his sense of belonging. The story concludes with Jacob feeling hopeful about his future, and excited having embraced 'A New Beginning.' Jacobs personal growth demonstrates how sometimes in life, a difficult start can, in time lead to a bright and more meaningful future."

My eyes flick between the green notice and Mum's watchful eyes.
"Fine." I sigh, mustering the words that were so hard to form.
I reluctantly begin walking towards what feels like my inevitable doom. No one will want to be friends with me. My stomach churns as I grip onto the green letter. The sun slowly begins to set just as I arrive at the local community hall. I carefully step inside, an intense flash of heat engulfing me. Following the signs, I make my way to a gymnasium where a group of teenagers my age sit in chairs in a circle. A young lady, probably in her mid-twenties with brown wavy hair and brown eyes, who must be the coordinator, spots me standing at the door.
"Hey there, welcome to the Greenvale Community Youth Project Group. You're a new face - Come join us. Introduce yourself."
I creep forward, taking a seat in a vacant chair. Twenty faces turn toward me all at once, making me sweat.
"Hello, my name is Jacob, and I am new to Greenvale."
Those twenty daunting faces smile at me, and say synchronously,
"Hi!"
Warm relief swims within me and I smile back. After the coordinator explains the projects the group has been focusing on, everyone breaks off into their own friend groups.
Two boys—one tall with blonde hair and green eyes, and one short with brown hair and blue eyes approach me.
The tall boy offers his hand.
"Hi, it's nice to meet you, Jacob. My name is Xavier—"
"And I am Sam, pleasure to meet you."
I nod, shaking both their hands. Xavier then smiles brightly at Sam, then turns back toward me.
"If you are happy with it, we would love for you to join us and be our friend!"
A huge smile forms on my face—the first time a smile fully reached my eyes in weeks.
When the youth group ends, I walk outside between Sam and Xavier. Laughing along with their jokes, feeling like I truly belong despite having only just met.
"So... see you next Wednesday?" Sam asks, slowly walking off in the opposite direction.
"Can't wait!" I call out, grinning widely, unselfconsciously.
Xavier says goodbye and departs toward his home too.
As I walk home, the green letter sticks out of my coat pocket, reminding me of the gut-wrenching fear that swam through my stomach on the way there. But now my head is held higher, and my future in Greenvale doesn't seem so daunting—it's exciting.
Who knows what may happen next? Whatever comes my way, I'm not afraid anymore. I have the right people to back me up, and a new beginning that awaits.

A New Beginning

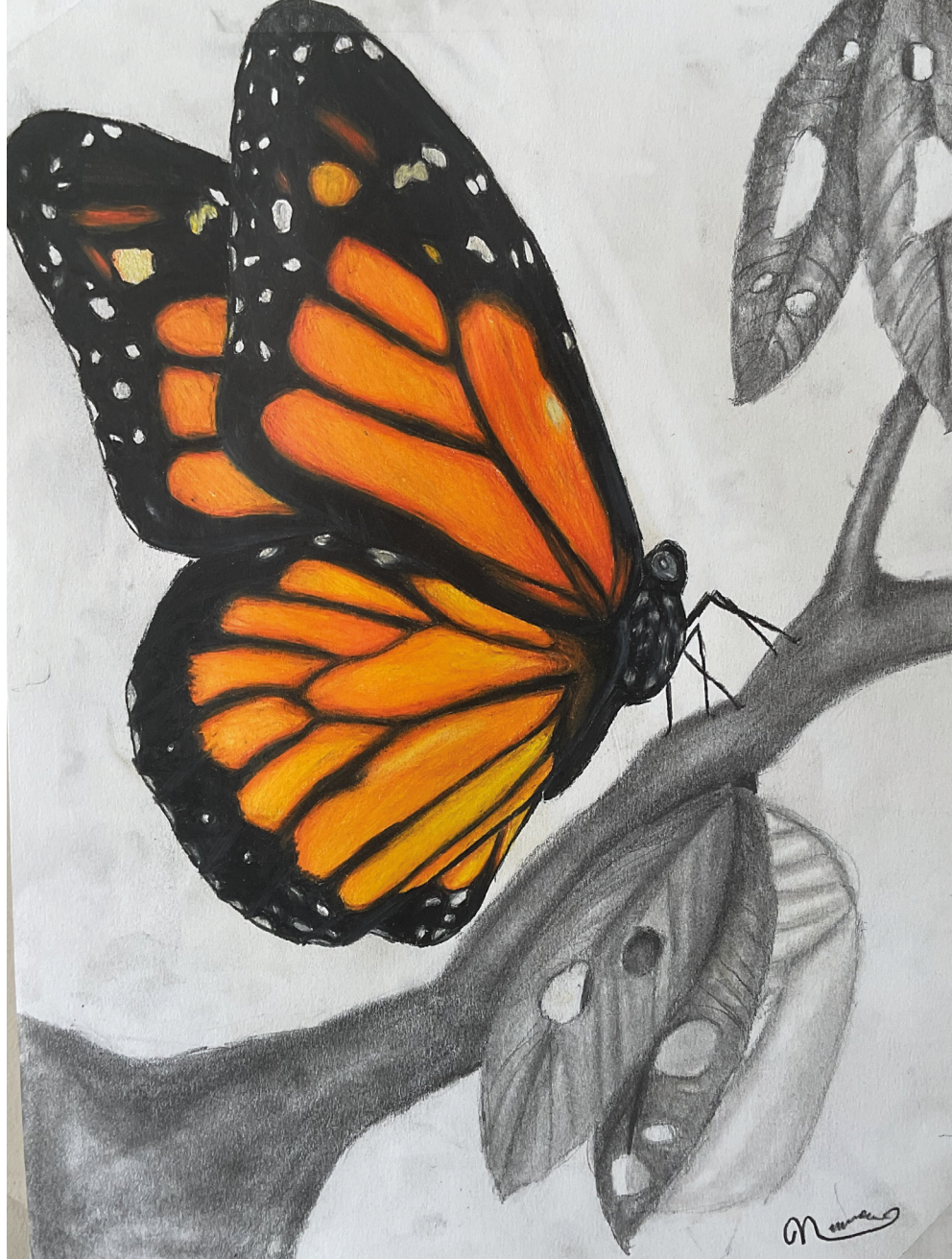
Mia Sutton (Age 15) Aitken college



Stars of night

Nadine Badra (Age 12) Broadmeadows Primary School

"Transformation from day to night and new day beginnings for everyon."



A New Horizon

Naledi Chandakabata (Age 12) Aitken College

"I used 2 mediums in my art work (graphite and colour pencil) to represent the butterfly's lifestyle before and after metamorphosis. It shows how much more the butterfly can explore, as it leaves its old environment behind."



Untitled

Narjas Rashad (Age 13) Mount Ridley College

"This artwork is about two people in the water, each on their own plane. It shows how transformation can happen when people notice each other and something new starts to form."



Untitled

Olivia Ferguson (Age 13) Kolbe Catholic College

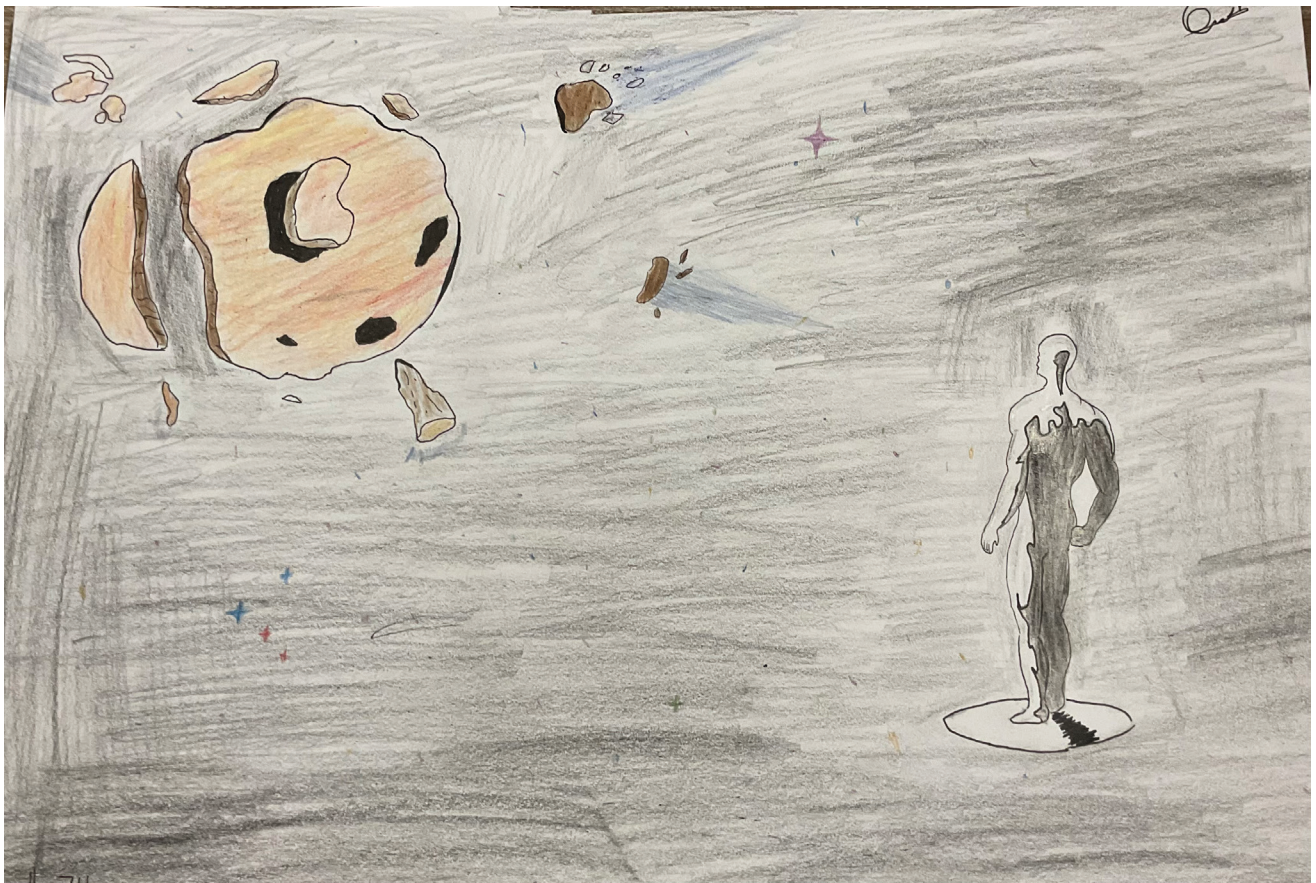
"My artwork is a butterfly that has just emerged from its chrysalis, having transformed itself into a new creature. The warm tones symbolise all the new pathways and beginnings the butterfly will live through."



The Birth of New Flames

Olivia Van Heer (Age 12) Greenvale Secondary School

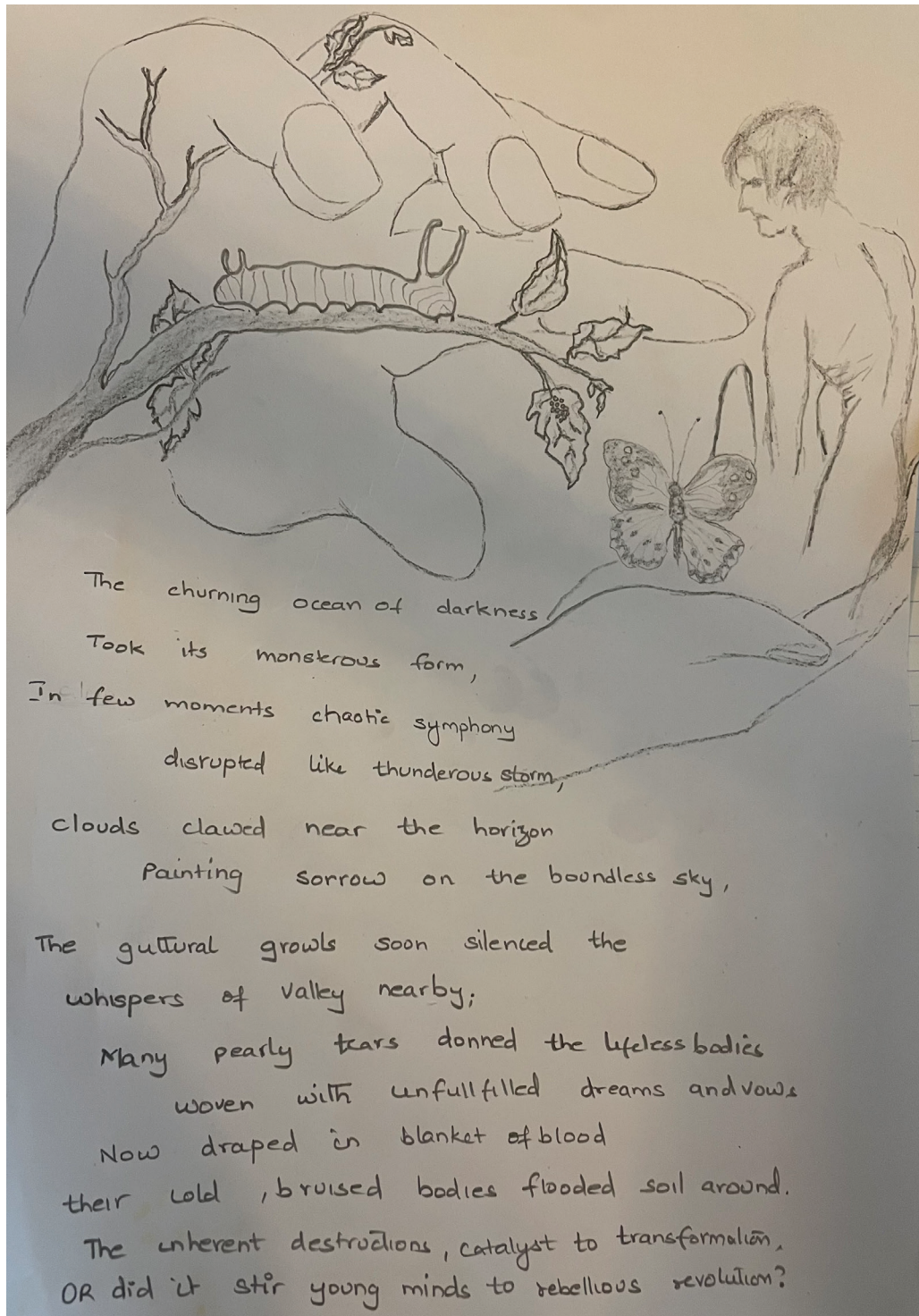
"A New Beginning, relates to the theme Transformations and Beginnings through the protagonist Jacob. Jacob goes through a significant emotional journey as he transitions into a new community, where he is torn apart by isolation and anxiety. Despite his inner turmoil, a turning point arises when he reluctantly attends a community youth project group. Here, he creates new bonds and friendships, helping he regains his sense of belonging. The story concludes with Jacob feeling hopeful about his future, and excited having embraced 'A New Beginning.' Jacobs personal growth demonstrates how sometimes in life, a difficult start can, in time lead to a bright and more meaningful future."



Loneliness man in the universe

Oneth Mudalpath (Age 12) Aitken College

"The man is watching the creation of a new planet which could be a new beginning of life."



Transformation

Parthiv Pramod (Age 12) Aitken College

"Transformation and revolution a byproduct of War."



Life

Preeyapat (Patty) Promrat (Age 17) Mount Ridley College

"This artwork portrays a woman at different stages of her life. She always holds the hand of the person beside her, even though that person changes as time passes—including herself. This reflects how all humans transform and grow, whether emotionally, physically, or through their surroundings. Each stage of life is like a new beginning: living differently, thinking differently, and meeting new people. Everything constantly changes and develops, guiding us toward new paths in life. The background shows the four seasons, with Japanese characters for summer (夏), spring (春), autumn (秋), and winter (冬). The seasons symbolize change and the passage of time, reminding every creature that transformation has arrived and that every ending also marks the start of something new."



The Birth of Freedom

Rayan Ghandi (Age 12) Sunbury Downs College

"So the beginning is the egg, and the transformation is that it hatched from the egg."



Where we all go

Rahaf Al Hayeek (Age 16) Elevation Secondary

"Refugee week art competition winner in collaboration with Advocates for dignity."



Through the Looking Glass

Scarlet Scollo (Age 15) Aitken College

"It captures a moment between the past and the present, the things that have been made to stay behind and linger even as time moves on they cannot."



Octopus Sunrise

Scarlett Jensen (Age 16) Sunbury Downs College

"The sunrise on the background represents a new beginning and the octopus represents transformation."



Emergence

Shrey Chhabra (Age 16) Kolbe Catholic College

"When I made this sketch, I wanted to show the powerful moment of change when the butterfly breaks free from its cocoon. To me, this shows both an ending and a beginning, stepping into something new even if it feels uncertain. This drawing is my way of saying that every new chapter in life comes from change. We all have our own cocoons, our challenges and fears. But inside them is the potential to grow and become something beautiful."



"That time of night"

Solis Draper (Age 17) Indie College Sunbury

"This piece of art was originally made as a way for me, as a neurodivergent trans kid, to express myself, and my challenges. it includes some of my favourite things and some things I've faced, and challenges that I've overcome. (s/h, a colder, unaccepting outside world, and a constant feeling of exhaustion from masking who I was and how I felt."



Butterfly Metamorphosis

Sucheta Vasudev (Age 12) Willmot Park Primary School

"It's the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly."

19-24
year olds



Untitled

Jana Tawil (Age 24), Melbourne Polytechnic

"My painting explains how a person carries his memories and his home in his heart when he moves to a new place."



Restart from the Beginning

Joseph Basham (Age 20)

"It's about how sometimes to transform into our true selves we need to look inside and restart from the beginning."



The beginning of a New Chapter: Turning the page

Renee Cherie Dugan (Age 19)

"This piece illustrates the moment when one chapter ends and another begins - a turning point we all face in life. The girl stepping into a new world represents the courage it take to move forward, into the unknown. Whether it's starting over, embracing change, or growing into a new version of yourself, every transformation begins with the decision to turn the page. This drawing is a tribute to those quiet, brave moments that begin a new story."










Breath of Nature

Ruby- Lee Hall (Age 19)

"This piece resembles transformation and new beginnings through symbolism of elements of nature. The hands are positioned as a butterfly with tattoos on the hands forming the butterflies' patterned wings. Butterflies are a symbol of transformation, as to become a butterfly they have to undergo the several stages of metamorphosis. Humans undergo their own transformations inside and outwards, which may not be as noticeable as butterflies, but it is just as important. Butterflies are also a symbol of hope along with the growth of flowers in her hair and the colours radiating off of the elements of nature to give her some hope there is a brighter side after the transformation or new beginning, as sometimes it can be met with anxiety beforehand. Ladybugs are also a metamorphic animal that resemble good luck and protection throughout the transformation."

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