

Yewon Lee

Age: 16, Grade: 11

School Name: James Clemens High School, Madison, AL

Educator: Elizabeth Vaughn

Category: Poetry

Tell Me, Mother

Each glowing ember pains
his heart as mankind's scalding flames
consume Her green and fog darkness through Her air.
As if the orange screen
devours the small pajama clad boy,
holding dearly his soft bear
At this dreadful moment
of death and destruction
a new question of despair:
"Mother, will the bears survive in there?"

Each passing year burns
his lungs as mankind's ominous black
consumes his game and engulfs his home.
As the ravaging heat of orange flame
sends sweaty trickles down the cub,
dashing dearly toward unknown
At this fearful moment
of death and destruction
a new realization once alone:
"Mother, will I find your warm embrace again?"

Every disintegrating path of haze blurs
the screen as mankind's reddish blaze
screeches through the day crushing homes, lives, dreams
As a cloak of death disguised in orange
unfurls its arms across Her wilderness,
spreading so swiftly through
At this inevitable moment
of death and destruction
a new query of distress:
"Mother, will the limping cub find its way?"

Every scorched wound drives
nails through his skin as mankind's mistake
tattoos itself on the cub
As the aching mark of black singe
sets bloody bruise on his arms,
longing dearly for cool and water
At this painful moment
of death and destruction
a new desire in despair:
"Mother, I want not to lose another limb."

Every yellow suit treading
not away but toward mankind's flames
with hearts courageously full
As the uncontrollable red glow
does nothing but spread, the small pajama clad boy
watching through his screen
At this startling moment
of death and destruction
a new curiosity of despair:
"Mother, is it us who caused the fire?"