

Nature

Destroyed & Reborn

An Anthology of poems from Canterbury Festival's
Schools' Poetry Competition 2022



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Introduction

The Canterbury Festival Schools' Poetry competition had been running for more than twenty years when Covid turned all our lives upside down. School children and students had a difficult time, as separation from friends and the familiar routine of the classroom dragged on and on.

Schools are taking time to recover – and this is reflected in the reduced number who have submitted poems this year. However, we wanted to celebrate the efforts of those students (and their teachers) who have created poems on the theme of Nature – Destroyed & Reborn. The poems selected for this Anthology explore environmental disasters both historic and current and illustrate that even our youngest poets care passionately about the effects of climate change, pollution and the destruction of the natural environment.

Our poetry facilitator was Alan Payne, a former teacher and now a Festival Associate. Thanks to Alan, to all the poets and teachers, and special thanks to St Edmund's School for hosting the live event. A huge thank you to Stagecoach South East who have made this year's competition possible by their sponsorship. Stagecoach has been the Travel Partner of Canterbury Festival for many years, and they contribute so much to our region with their greener, smarter travel options.

I am sure you will enjoy reading the poems and hearing our young writers perform them.

Well done to them all!

Rosie Turner
Festival Director

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Theo Chatziiosifidis (6) Blean Primary School

Cubs are kidnapped.

Humans can't share your home.

Environment changing

Ensnared by Poachers.

They can run fast but not that fast.

Africa calls you.

Humans must change!

Save us!

Noah Knight (8) Blean Primary School

We need to take care of the Earth

We need to look after our land

We can plant new trees

We need to build less and not be wasteful

Clearing up our rubbish and never litter

Reduce the amount of plastic we use

Stop building too many things that damage our land

Choose sustainable stuff

Conserve water and not send chemicals into our water

Our world should look like this



Mabel Vigar (8) Blean Primary School

Waste was very bad for the world

At sea the rubbish swirled

Science taught us to use our waste

Tons of CO2 replaced

Electric cars are now embraced

Adrian Chen (9) Blean Primary School

You can see everywhere

The way God gifts us

From dawn to dusk

Sunrise on a white blue sky

Fields full of sunflower, colourful butterflies

Sunset on a golden yolk sky

Houses full of love and joy

Alexander Cane (9) Blean Primary School

Is it time for a change?

These are not just words this is reality...

Mighty nature is fierce and strong,

The oak tree thrives over the forest

The nocturnal owl hooting in its branches.

All is well.

Distant sounds of crackling fire

Smoke rising

Machines whirring

Poachers sneaking

Ice melting

Humans causing destruction

Darkness falls over the forest

Rain falls heavily

Shoots spring out the ground

Trees growing slowly

People walking to places

No landfill

Giving more space for animals

Olivia Marsh (9) Blean Primary School

The Last Panda

I spoke to the last panda,
He said "The trees are gone,
I don't know how,
Now I'm the only one,

The earth is getting hotter,
The sun is burning brighter,
The planet is breaking,
And everything is on fire,

My friends had a theory,
Too much plastic in the sea,
But now they have all disappeared,
All that is left is me."

He said "I know what to do,
Together we could make a plan,
To bring life back to earth,
We'll do it hand in hand,

Plant more trees, recycle,
Help habitats recover,
Use less electricity,
We can help each other."

I promised to be by his side,
Forever we will mend,
Let's get started,
Until the end my friend.

Ava Petrovici (9) Blean Primary School

Canterbury High Street's Saved Trees

In Canterbury High Street stand 5 trees – long, wide and proud,
But the sad thing was that people ignored them whilst chatting in the crowd.

They thought that looking at shops with families was more important
than looking at trees,
The people thought,
As they shopped and bought,
That the trees would just stay there as they had been planted,
The people of Canterbury took those trees for granted!

But one day Canterbury Council had something shocking to say,
That the trees would be cut down to make room for more money,
But the people of Canterbury didn't find this funny.
If you are reading this poem I will tell you the story,
Of how the five trees were reborn in leafy glory!

The people finally realized the importance of the trees,
They wanted them to stay and all yelled, "NO!" whilst pacing by them
to and fro.
The people waved their fist and added their names to a very long list.

Canterbury Council said, "OK! We'll give your trees back and they
won't be sawn"
So those trees nearly got destroyed, but then were reborn.

Dylan Rajan-Rankin (9) Blean Primary School

The Re-introduction of Bison in Blean Woods

A long time ago, lovely Bison roamed in Blean Woods,
They were gentle giants, long fur, big horns, eating what they could,
Until something terrible happened that would make them near
extinct,
Cruel hunters, shooting, killing them, pushing them to the brink,

Over time people started to miss Bison a lot,
Until permission to re-introduce them they got,
Blean Woods was lonely without their friends!
And wondered when they would ever see them again?

We are all part of the same planet,
Humans, animals- colours of the same palette,
Protecting the environment is everyone's duty,
Seeing the Bison roam free, is a thing of beauty.

Holly Miller (9) Blean Primary School

Pollution in the Ocean

‘Stop the pollution!’ the animals call,
As the whales watch the plastic bags dance through the waves
‘Stop the pollution!’ the animals call,
As the screaming sea slowly suffocates.

‘Stop the pollution!’ the animals call,
As fish swim like lightning through the depths and destruction,
‘Stop the pollution!’ the animals call,
As turtles cry through the nets like newborn babies.

‘Stop the pollution!’ the animals call,
As the coral reefs line up like soldiers going into battle,
‘Stop the pollution!’ the animals call,
As waves crash and swish against the rocks in anger.

‘Stop the pollution!’ the animals call,
As trash flies like birds into the ocean,
‘Stop the pollution!’ the animals call.
SAVE OUR OCEANS!

Abi Wells (9) Blean Primary School

Our Environment needs looking after

Under the Oceans are being destroyed

Recycle is important for everyday life

Energy is being used relentlessly

Nature is feeling the effect

Value our planet earth

Is it worth the cost, when our world is being lost

Remember there is a solution

Organise a litter pick

Nurture and help our wildlife

Make a small change everyday

Everything you do matters

Now from this moment onwards

There must be something that we can all do

Walter Fry (12) Kent College Canterbury

Sri Lanka

Sea turned against them,

Raging waves crashing and laughing manically.

Impacting and destroying everything in its path.

Lightning crashing down a tsunami in the distance.

After death, just darkness and despair

Not all hope lost, alas; there is still the good in people's
hearts.

Kindness rebuilds the city

All of it is reborn.

Will Keys (12) Kent College Canterbury

Pompeii

Poured on by molten rock and lava by the

Ominous, scary, dark and feared

Mount Vesuvius.

People screamed, cried and prayed.

Everybody knew nothing could save the day.

In the moment, it was a disaster never to be seen forever more.

In 1000 years, Pompeii began to breathe again.

Vinnie Wickham (12) Kent College Canterbury

Pompeii

Pounded and beaten by the rocks
that have erupted from Mount Vesuvius,

Ominously staring down, the mountain roared and
glowered.

Massive clouds shot darkness all over the heads of
Pompeii's people.

Pumice floated down, the town became encrusted in the
ghastly ash,

Exploring rocks from intense heat of the mountain.

In the passing of time, we still remember the power of
Pompeii.

Freya Jones (12) Kent College Canterbury

Is it time for a change?

Mostar was eaten and digested by bombs,
On November 9th, 1993 everything changed.
So now there was no time to say goodbye...
The debris and smoke were creeping into our lungs.
Ashen and lost: were we going to live?
Reborn but with scars: never forgetting Mostar's past.

Elsbeth Dunlop (12) Kent College Canterbury

The Chernobyl Monster

C hernobyl, once a tall proud city, now lies in its abandoned void of loneliness and death.

H eart of light and joy, now eaten by darkness, death and destruction.

E vacuations?.....not enough...never...enough!

R adiation now swallows the once proud bustling city whole leaving it lonely and abandoned in its own creation.

N o.....not us, why us? Why our own creations cries the silence?

O ne day

B lue skies? A sigh of hope and love...

Y ellow, red, blue, green, pink and purple rainbow fields of flowers begin to start sprouting all over Chernobyl.

L ife now blooms where people have left.

Jessikah Reeves (12) The Archbishop's School

It is getting warm up here
Even if you can't hear
I need help!
But you don't care
Soon I will be nothing but thin air
I will one day stop trying
And everyone will be crying
Once you hear the boom
I will be gone soon
And so I plead
To give you time to read
I need you and you need me
So before I leave
Please help me

Lewis King (12) the Archbishop's School

Destruction and Rebirth

Homes and habitats of animals

Wrecked by modern machinery

Animals are left homeless

Nowhere to go

Humans don't listen to their cry for help

Humans don't listen

We have caused this destruction

Of the animals and us upon ourselves

In a tear that trickles down the cheek

There is hope in the darkness for all living creatures

Thank you to all of the poets who entered this year's competition!

Apologies in advance for any misspelling or misinterpretation of words. Many of these poems are translated from handwriting, which we try to make as accurate as possible. We will open next year's competition in spring 2023. Teachers who would like to receive more information can contact the team at info@canterburyfestival.co.uk

For more information about our year-round activities and events, visit canterburyfestival.co.uk



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