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Family memoirs earns young writer prestigious ASG Literary Award

Eleven year old Jana Nguyen has taken it on herself to keep her family's history alive and well through narrative.

"Words are very powerful and stories help people to feel and understand how hardships are faced and overcome, and how through hardships we learn to appreciate life and what it can offer."

Jana's words do speak volumes and that's why she'll be presented with an ASG Literary Award for her story, '*The Journey*'. It is based on her mother's family journey from Vietnam to Australia and her grandmother's courageous battle against Alzheimer's disease.

It is one of five award categories sponsored by ASG as part of the Young Australian Art and Writers' Awards on November 25, which attracts more than 15,000 entries.

Jana migrated to Australia from Thailand two years ago with her parents and younger brother, moving in with their grandmother who inspired Jana to write her winning story.

"*The Journey* means a lot to me. It makes me feel very lucky and I realise how amazing it was that my mum started her life in Australia about the same age that I came to live in Australia. But her life started much harsher than mine."

Jana who attends Richmond Primary School says she also enjoyed listening to her mother and grandmother chat.

"I got to see how strong but humble Grandma is and I want to be like that."

The awards are an initiative of the Children's Charity Network (CCN), an organisation that helps build confidence and self-esteem in children. ASG has been supporting CCN since 2003.

ASG Chief Executive Officer, John Velegrinis says Jana's storytelling is honest and raw and her writing shows a deep level of maturity.

"I congratulate Jana and all the ASG students who are very deserving of these awards. ASG is passionate about helping children and young students embrace their talent and creativity to achieve their goals and aspire to even greater things in the future.

"It's also really encouraging to hear comments from these students that they're being supported, encouraged and challenged by their teachers and school principals. This collaboration between teachers, parents and schools is fundamental as revealed in the latest [ASG Parents Report Card](#) to ensure the continuation of learning and development in both the school and home environments."

Other ASG award recipients were:

ASG Art Award-painting (Prep-grade 4): Janavika Hingaroni

ASG Art Award-drawing (Prep-grade 4): Claire Ah-Chok

ASG Literary Award (Poetry): Georgia Ryan

ASG Indigenous Art Award: Tyler Sillery-Maxwell

Ends.

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Editor's notes:

The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 540,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.8 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: www.asg.com.au.