

November 2016

'A night by the beach' wins ASG Literary Award

Don't be fooled by the title of Jordan Varghese's poem, 'A night by the beach'.

Even though he is only 11 years old, Jordan's poem is more than just about a pretty sunset and a moon which shimmers upon a glass crystal-like ocean.

'A night by the beach' is about the importance of gratitude and how to be happy with what one has.

*One night, I was sitting by the beach,
Patting the grains of sand, with my reach;
But what if one day, this joy would disappear,
That would surely bring a tear...*

Jordan asks, 'how great it would be if people were happy with that they have?' and concludes the world would be a better place for everyone.

Jordan who attends St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School in Prestons, NSW, was presented with an ASG Literary Award on 26 November 2016, for his powerful poem in an award ceremony held in Melbourne.

It is one of five award categories sponsored by ASG as part of the Young Australian Art and Writers' Awards, which attracted more than 33,000 entries.

The newly crowned poet says writing is like 'magic'.

"If you put your mind to what you write, you will create something that you would never have believed you could. Also when you are feeling happy or sad writing helps you to express yourself, and you feel better again."

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 said Jordan's writing is thought provoking and his writing shows a deep level of maturity.

"I congratulate Jordan and all the ASG students who are very deserving of these awards. ASG's core mission is about supporting lifelong education and aspirations which is why we are proud of our long-standing partnership with the CNN and this initiative which fosters young talent and encourages creativity.

These awards are also successful because of the support from parents. We know from our research¹ that parents want their children to succeed and this aspiration is the most significant factor in determining their long-term success. When children know how their parents value their education and the high aspirations they have, this encourages them to want to do better and achieve results. So it's really encouraging to see parents being involved and supporting their children's educational interests."

CCN Executive Director Rob Leonard says the awards continue to go from strength to strength.

"Each year the calibre of submissions gets even more exceptional and it makes the judging process so much more difficult. Each of the award recipients are definitely budding authors and artists who have exciting future ahead of them. Their imagination is just incredible and some of their stories still bring a tear to my eye."

Other ASG award recipients were:

ASG Art Award-drawing (Prep-grade 4): Jazmine Earl, Hackham, SA

ASG Art Award-painting (Prep-grade 4): Rohan Ganta, Berwic, VIC

ASG Literary Award (Short story): Adrian Garro, South Morang, VIC

ASG Indigenous Art Award: Kaysanna Elap, Bunbury, WA

Ends.

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Editors 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 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: www.asg.com.au.

¹ [ASG Parents Report Card 2016](#)