

November 2016

Good versus evil: 'Kiptoo,' wins ASG award

Fourteen year old Adrian Garro loves putting pen to paper and realised his untapped potential when he was encouraged by his grade six school teacher to write.

Soon after, words flowed and Adrian discovered the joys of writing.

His latest piece 'Kiptoo,' is the story of a man's dilemma in the face of right and wrong and explores the themes of cultural understanding, trust, empathy and instinct.

It unfolds as an Australian doctor arrives in Mount Kenya to treat those in desperate need of medical care. It's been years since 'Kiptoo' was last seen in the village, but he's back and his presence is terrifying. On one eerie night the doctor wakes, paralysed with fear as he looks up and gazes into Kiptoo's yellow eyes, realising that he could be killed in any second.

Adrian says, 'putting thoughts and words on paper takes him to places, previously undiscovered. Kiptoo was a story where everything fell into place once I started writing'.

Adrian who is in Year nine at Marymede Catholic College in South Morang, Victoria, was presented with an ASG Literary Award for his short story on 26 November 2016, 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 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 Adrian's writing is deeply thought provoking and echoes the moral decisions and judgements which are faced by thousands daily.

"I congratulate Adrian 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.

¹ [ASG Parents Report Card 2016](#)

“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 an 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-painting (Prep-grade 4): Rohan Ganta, Berwick, VIC
ASG Art Award-drawing (Prep-grade 4): Jazmine Earl, Hackham, SA
ASG Literary Award (Poetry): Jordan Varghese, Casula, NSW
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.