

English Department Poetry Competition

Theme: The Power of Words

Overall Winner

The Power of Words

There are many weapons in today's world,
Of which you have probably heard.
Some are sharp and strong; some are dull and weak.
But none of them are like the word.

The word can bring people together,
or split relationships apart.
The word can confess a truth, a feeling,
or break a person's heart.

The word does not have physical form;
No blades, no spikes, not even a price.
But a slight word misuse or mistake
will have an effect that's not nice.

But not all words are hurtful and bad,
or fill your life with regret.
Some words bring relief, others bring joy
and do not carry any threat.

This is a message that cannot be deferred:
ALWAYS BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR EVERY WORD!

Jack McIlrath 10W

Year 8 Winner

The Power of Words

The tongue is like a sword,
a poisonous snake
spreading tears and sorrow
wherever it may go...

On the other hand
it can drip with honey;
spreading laughter and smiles
and changing lives...

The tongue is our most powerful weapon –
Not because of what it is
but because of what it can do...

It can change words of hope and kindness,
designed to help,
into words of cruelty,
designed to hurt.

Jessica Mellet 8R

Year 9 Winners

The Power of Words

Full of unseen, tender emotion,
minds creating a spell-binding potion.
Words drip honey and all things sweet;
from food to flowers, presents or a treat.

Succulent, dreamy and callous no more,
words can be freedom, which we all adore.
A sweet taste of sickening saccharine,
words can smell nice, of something clean.

However, day after day, tear-stained faces,
the poison of words constantly laces.

Those who spit terrible, piercing rust,
venom and toxins, killing one's trust.

Buds never to blossom, wilting roses;
harmful words make powerful posies.

These words propose failure,
posing a challenge to another.
An already pointed dagger,
suffocating and ready to smother.

With death-dealing outcomes,
Words are virulent, vile and noxious.
Be aware at best.
Speak.
But be cautious.

Abbie Buckingham 9T

The Power of Words

Everyone wishes for power
when they do not realise
it is already inside of them.

Powerful words that could tear someone's life apart.

Words that stick like honey in someone's mind.

Words that are shapeshifters and transform into demons...
and nightmares.

Words that could push someone to the edge.

Everyone underestimates words.

Words can destroy people.

Words can destroy worlds.

But words can start a new story that shapes the world itself.

NEVER underestimate the power of words.

Violet Morrow 9M

Year 10 Winner

The Power of Words

These black marks on paper,
they hold so much power.
They can make you sit and read
for hour after hour.

With today's modern technology
and websites to express our view,
those marks can be heartlessly cruel
and so filled with poison too.

Be careful what you write,
as it may be there forever.
From the harsh words of a critic
to the romantic words of a lover.
These words can affect so many
and may take a lifetime to recover.

Words can make one happy.
Words can bend one's mind.
Words can make one grumpy.
Words can make one kind.

Words can illuminate a room.
Words can make one weep.
Words can hurt so much,
that a man cannot sleep.

Words before they are spoken,
are under our control.
But once they leave our mouths
we fall under their toll.

Words can help you connect with a person,
or drive you far away.
Be careful with your words
because they never decay.

Words have power.
They can destroy or create.
Words have the ability to heal,
To hurt, to help or to hate.

Louise Bailie 10W

Year 11 Winner

The Words in his Hands

The boy who writes poetry,
you think you know the type?
Rich father, sophisticated mother,
an all-round 'nice life'....you know the type.

The one in the back of the class,
secret brown notebook in hand.
He writes everything he sees, hears
and smells in this land.

But that's not the type of boy
who really understands
the power and expression
behind the words in his hands.

His words come from a thesaurus
but not from his heart.
He treats poetry
like a finely taught art.

Do you still think you know the boy who writes poetry?
He doesn't sit alone in smoky French cafes
because the whirl of the machine helps him think...
He sits alone on his bed, covering his eyes. On the brink.

On the brink of collapse, like the leaning tower of Pisa.

The only thing to stop him bubbling over
Like a can of soup is... the Notes app.

He pours his heart, his soul, his everything
into the lines on the dark screen.

That is the boy who writes poetry,
That is the type.
The one who just wants
Someone to listen and avoid all the hype.

His words have great power.
They hang there, strong, proud and true.
But nobody hears them; Not me, not you.

Rachel Wilkinson 11S