 

Ledbury Poetry Competition

Children Winners, 2016

First Prize:

Raffiella Chapman

Raffiella Chapman is nine years old and  loves writing poetry and short stories. Her poem *Dinosaur Wishes* was commended and published in the *Barnet Open Poetry Competition Anthology* (2015). *Olivia’s Laugh* is published in the Young Writers’ anthology *Poetry Emotions* (2016) and her short story *The Girl On The Balcony* is published in Young Writers’  *Fear Factor*anthology (2016). Raffiella is the Junior Reporter with her own tri-monthly column *Raffi Reporting* in the national palaeontology magazine *Trilobite Times* and has a monthly feature *Raffi’s Rocks* in the Jurassic Rangers’ newsletter *Go Jurassic!* As well as creative writing and journalism, Raffiella loves Science, fossil hunting, drawing and reading. Raffiella also works as an actress and stars in *The Theory of Everything* (2014)*, The Have-Nots* (2016) and Tim Burton’s*Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children* (2016)*. She* lives with her screenwriter mum,  yoga teacher dad and her tabby cat Kwazii.

**The Moon**

The moon is a mirror

Against a pitch black wall,

The moon is a pearl button

Sewn on an ink black blouse

The moon is the curve of a milky white claw

On a black cat’s paw.

The moon is a crumpet

With butter filled craters,

The moon is a plate

Shiny and new,

The moon is a Cromwellian table

Freshly waxed

The moon is you

Second Prize:

Jonah Prince

Hi I'm Jonah and I am 7. I like to play football and rugby and just came first in a local school tag-rugby competition. I love all food but especially burgers with tomatoes on top and pasta with meatballs. When I grow up, I want to be a football player like Messi and Ronaldo. If I don't make it, I would like to run my own zoo and look after Panda bears.

I wrote 'On the Fence' because one morning I was inspired by a fence in my nanny's garden, which looked mossy and old.

**On the Fence**

On the fence moss grows on the wood,

shadows fall, making another fence,

like stepping stones,

the sun shines straight through.

The fence rounding everything, everything,

for a long time it’s been waiting

to be old, old, older,

breaking apart

growing grey

Third Prize

Laurence Guard

I am Laurie and I am 10. I adore cricket and all foods, as well as swimming, playing outside and table tennis. I also play as scrum half in my rugby team at the school I go to. At school I do cross country, cricket practice, rugby, carpentry, quizzes and at this time we are busy rehearsing for the school play which is Romeo and Juliet. I enjoy reading and at the moment my favourite author is Simon Mayo, followed by Phillip Pullman. I enjoyed Simon Mayo's Itch series and his new book, Blame. I love the His Dark Materials series by Phillip Pullman. Currently I want to be a food critic when I grow up and I recently cooked a three course meal for my parents. My poem was inspired by a supper with my friends on New Year's eve last year.

**Toppling**

I remember the

Jenga bricks

worn smooth

by other little hands

reinvented as

dominoes

toppling.

Soldiers with bearskin

hats falling

one

by

one

as Josh, Will, Rosie and I

dreamt of a world record

whilst the dominoes

climbed

and descended

the stairs

and went their separate ways at the

partings.

We looked on in awe

at the splits

steps and

straights

they fell so synchronised

like ballet dancers

gliding.