

## **Pool**

This mind is a boundless swimming pool  
that I swim and swim until my chest reaches its  
metal hinge,

Gasping back for reality damp  
in the remnants of forgotten ambition and yet I ask –  
How far can you continue this illusion?  
For I seem to stay afloat on this place as it  
hollows and scrapes out my flesh just to  
save the sensation...

And knowingly so,  
I am only earthbound.  
Soon enough the rippling substance  
swallows me again then time stops.

My eyes close shut as visions of kaleidoscopes  
seize the cracks  
Which for all its bewitching beauty, still blinds me to truth

**Nguyen Phuong Nhi – Year 9 – British Vietnamese International School HCMC**

# Youth Delusion

Dancing with the breezes of wind, I follow,  
Under the incandescent scarlet sun.  
Bathing beneath the dazzling gold daylight,  
Towards the small, chirpy birds full of life.  
Hypnotize by the beautiful melody,

Unaware of the minatory creature,  
Lurking, waiting, like a ferocious timer.  
My inattentive eyes gaze as birds fly,  
As the creature lunge at me, biting tight.  
It pierces through my skin, with blood-thirsty eyes,  
Drowning in pain like never before, I cry,  
Under the unfadable wound, I die.

Screeching over the lingering agony that haunted me,  
As I hopelessly drag my abruptly dense body,  
Permanent stains of blood smears across the endless hallway.  
Guiding, escorting me to the dark lord before I decay.  
His hostile stare smother all over my vein.  
As if hell froze, an intangible frosty force drains my brain,  
He lurches at me, with a sparking crimson dagger,  
His merciless eyes smear a smile as he stabs me,  
The maniacal flame ignites ceaselessly across my corps.  
Lacerated by the perennial inferno,  
I fall to the ground, knee then headbutted,  
I clench and curl up, biting my mouth as the eternal scorch spread.  
I tried to calm, but only found myself choking and frothing,  
The tremored acrid hell was discolorizing and fading.  
My languid shell feeble as I capitulate  
To the malicious and unraveled fiend.

The aching fade, I felt so lifted suddenly,  
My lithe body shoot up inhumanly.  
Gasping and breathing as if never before,  
Still hallucinated and haunted.  
Blinded by the artificial spears of light  
That penetrated my defenseless eyes.  
Knocked back, I found myself landed softly,  
Then bounced and forcefully repelled,  
This place is more like heaven than hell.  
Puzzled, I lie on what I realize was a comfortable cushion.  
But yet, the pain was just no mistaken,  
Everything was crystal clear when my dog rush-in in fear.  
Next to me, the efficacious hypodermic gleam with all the gears.

I was the victims of them all for all the years,  
Lying here in a coma then reappeared.

Le Nguyen Hoang – Year 9 – British Vietnamese International School HCMC

## Dark world

Snowflakes fall down  
Hectic days, keeping myself busy  
Distraction filled schedule  
Full of loneliness  
The garden slowly bloomed  
Full of thorns  
I was slowly fade down  
In this dark castle

I saw you in my darkest world  
You are my sunshine  
You brighten my world  
Just by your smile  
But please...  
I'm begging you  
Don't smile to me  
Light on me

You know that I can't  
I can't show you  
A shadow part of myself  
Once again, I put my mask  
But I still want you

A flower that resembles you  
I want to give to you  
After I take off this fake mask  
But I know...  
I can't do this  
I have to hide  
Because I'm a monster

I am afraid  
I am shattered  
That you will leave me...  
But I still want you

Maybe back then  
If I try a bit more...  
If I be brave...  
If I had the courage to stand in front you  
When I'm being myself  
I am hoping...  
Would everything be different now?

That's disappeared  
That's fallen  
Left alone in this castle  
Looking at my broken mask.