



## Mere Glow

By Xuan Year 10

A mere glow is  
Mere.  
It's in the name.  
I never care about it-  
Just kind of lame.

I say that as I get devoured  
In the crowd  
It's so loud.  
I laugh and I joke  
And banter, and lean  
And choke.

I've always been someone's light in dark  
Sympathetic listener  
They don't know that it hurts too, when *I'm*  
sad.  
Don't think they care  
*I* don't care.  
It's only a mere glow.

I say that I have flames they burn  
Too bright,  
It outmatches, by far  
Any light.

I say that it's fine,  
I'm ok,  
Just a minute  
They nod  
And walk away.  
I smile as my vision blur

Slide back into the dark

It recurs.  
I curl up and I sink  
Into the never ending dark  
I lied.  
It hurts.  
The flames long been ashes  
But I've covered my wounds with pretty  
sashes

I wished there would be a light  
In the dark for me  
Too.  
But such thing would be too good to be  
True.  
I'd wipe my tears away  
Powder my inner bleeding wounds  
Stay out of the way  
To say  
It's ok  
I'm-

I break out a smile  
"I'm-"  
I held my breath but  
Freeze.  
Mid-embrace.

Maybe  
Maybe  
Maybe  
My ashes  
Are lit.

Joint First Place

A

multi

coloured

glimmering

light that bends

and reflects, it

travels faster

than the eye

can see.

An indescribable force, a force there:  
When Auschwitz was thrown open;  
Freedom, after 167 years of slavery;  
A tyrant overthrown, again and again;  
A girl who wouldn't give up her bus seat;  
An activist, out of prison after 27 years;  
A man with a dream that came true;  
A man who put his feet on the moon;  
When the end of a war was announced;  
When the homeless were given shelter;  
When the hungry were given food;  
That minute of silence in remembrance;  
When a footballer takes the knee;  
Every positive quote on social media;  
Within the people of the Stonewall riots;  
That smiling stranger in a sea of faces;  
When the sick become healthy again;  
People using their voice to make change;  
When you wake up and know you're alive;  
When the sun rises again in the morning;  
A light that even the darkest black hole  
Cannot swallow.

# The Light in the Darkness

The room, agonisingly quiet, and cold

Curtains closed, snuffing the light, swallowing stories untold

The atmosphere, lonely, but home to a ghost

The hanging Cimmerian darkness, blinding almost

Then a light, a spark, so far yet so nigh

A glowing spot like a star in the night sky

Bringing warmth and piercing through the web like night

In your hands, illuminating your face, a candlelight

It danced in your hands, full of grace and joy

An unlikely sight, which the darkness desired to destroy

Yet it shone, brighter than ever, for everyone to see

It awakened a soul, became a guiding light for me

Rising, a new form of unwavering hope amidst the fear

Shining light on what's important, making it clear

Bringing happiness, breaking my trance

Being the motivating voice inside of me, another chance

The room, now alit, joyous and warm

The sun shining, after the harsh storm

Determined to bring happiness and hope in me regardless

The star, the spark, the light in the darkness

By Bhoomija Year 8



Runner-Up

## The Light in the Darkness

Imagine a candle,  
Its gentle flame flickering in the dark.  
It is hope.  
A trickle of wax slides down the candlestick,  
Like the tear falling down the cheek of a small boy,  
Small, vulnerable, scared,  
Hiding in the walls of his German friends.  
Jumping at every knock,  
At every bang, crash, boom,  
As soldiers tear down the place, looking for people like him,  
And as the noise gets closer he remembers,  
Stories when he was little,  
Never to go with the soldiers,  
They would take you away to a faraway place,  
Where they kill Jews,  
Just like him.  
He hears voices,  
Hollering, bellowing, yelling,  
Looking for him,  
Getting closer  
And closer,  
He hears footsteps,  
Someone hunting, foraging, seeking,  
A few feet away,  
Closer  
And closer,  
The candle gutters out,  
And darkness sweeps in



Runner-Up

**By Samragee Year 9**

## Colour Me Yellow



Reds strewn haphazardly across the page,  
Blues littered ruthlessly,  
Purples etching themselves deeply,  
Greens swirling, snaking around the paper unnaturally.

They dance together,  
Viciously,  
Rage and tragedy mingling,  
Tangled helplessly with pain,  
An undertone of grief, barely veiled,  
Suffering bright against the stark background.

They merge together,  
Passionately, powerlessly,  
Twisting, turning, tumbling,  
Entwined, almost like fate,  
Then destroyed by a monster unimaginable.

It rampages through the page,  
Burning, crashing, devouring,  
Chaos and destruction left in its wake.  
The black swallowing the painting whole,  
Everything in ruins.

Almost everything.

A small corner of the page,  
Shining bright, like a beacon,  
Drawing the monster closer,  
As if enticing it, teasing it.

For the darkness never reaches that corner,  
Like an invisible boundary,  
One that it cannot cross.

And, try as it might,  
The black cannot overpower the yellow.

# Tiny Light



Gone  
Like the moment you look up  
And see something beautiful  
A flower  
Dying amongst the rubble  
The last one you'll see for months

Gone  
Like when you begin to think  
Of every dream crushed  
A hope  
Fading as the last train pulls away  
The pitter-patter of the rain

Gone  
Like the day you see  
One you love slaughtered  
A life  
Being sucked from a creation  
Slipping back into the dust

Gone  
Like hope locked in a box  
Sealed as tight as an envelope  
An opening  
Spreading that tiny light  
That tiny light in the darkness

For hope is never gone.

**By Lucy Year 9**

# Be the light



Runner-Up

A corner of the world filled with darkness,  
People drowning in their plight.  
Their everlasting sorrow...  
Was slowly consuming the light.

The darkness began to spread,  
Inhabitants' spirits became low.  
The joyful demeanour diminishing...  
The world was losing its glow.

Flickering flames within each heart -  
For kindness and warmth, they were yearning.  
Instead, they were faced with ominous ice...  
That led their candles to stop burning.

Humanity plunged into an empathy drought,  
But light shall never retreat.  
We're still hopeful for that one intact candle...  
And we shouldn't accept defeat.

To help our misguided souls rekindle,  
Such that compassion will never again fall.  
Emblaze this message upon the world...  
'Tis love that conquers all.

Fetch the warmth buried deep within,  
Watch your candle get relit.  
Illuminate your heart with elation...  
Chip away at the ice - bit by bit.

Do at least one good deed daily,  
Don't be afraid to use your voice.  
Remember - even in the darkest of times...  
You always have a choice.

My appeal to you today -  
Is to let your candle shine bright.  
Help others to relight theirs as well...  
And together, we can bring back the light.

**By Shreya G. Year 7**

## The Girl Who Glowed

Let me tell you a story,  
about a girl who was enwrapped  
in the darkness she had created  
in which she was unrelentlessly trapped.

She sat silent for quite a while,  
nothing and no one around  
She couldn't tell joy from despair  
She was, by chains, bound.

She wished to be like the others  
to be wild and free  
You can do it, a voice whispered,  
one  
two  
three.

She felt light as a feather  
Something miraculous was happening  
She did not feel the rope under her feet  
on which she had for so long been balancing.

She had found the light  
It was in her all along  
but she'd gotten so used to the darkness  
that she forgot what she was looking for.

Yet she found the happiness  
and adventure and hope  
Not by destroying the darkness  
but by letting it go.

She thought that it used to hide her  
so she didn't have to face the world  
but now she shines in that darkness  
and knows what she's worth

She learned to love herself  
and leave the shadows behind  
because loving yourself is what's most important  
That's what we need a will to find

The darkness exists  
There's no doubt  
but that's how we can look for the light  
like the girl who glowed, who finally got out.





Stars can't shine without darkness,  
Flowers can't bloom without rain,  
Children can't grow without struggles,  
And wounds can't heal without pain,  
Light can't shine without shadows,  
Fire can't burn without flames,  
Snowflakes can't fall without coldness,  
And aid isn't truthful without gain,



Darkness is everywhere,  
Struggles day and night,  
The only thing that we can do,  
Is focus on the light,  
Sometimes it might seem hopeless,  
You may even lose the fight,  
But when we stand together,  
We can make our hope shine bright,

Let hope shine bright.

**By Usmi Year 7**