

# Manchester City of Literature

By Mohammad Jawad,  
Burnage Academy for Boys  
1st Place Year 7 Winner

## Golden Poem

Why can't we see the future?  
I tried looking in the microscope  
for the future with my eyes, but all I  
could see was the stars in the sky.  
All the gears on course,  
I get the parts at the source.  
Fast cars so expensive  
those circuits so comprehensive.  
I don't want to be a magician,  
I want to be a technician,  
something that works with electricity,  
without all the simplicity.  
I want to think like a scientist,  
looking at animals, earth and sky,  
I want to ask questions,  
wondering how, what, and why.

By Arazw Hasan,  
Whalley Range High School  
joint 1st Place Year 7 Winner

## Matter

I ate solid matter  
It made me feel fatter  
Cause matter takes space or has mass  
My stomach was hurting  
It filled up with something  
More matter of phase we call gas  
I drank some more matter  
Some type of cake batter

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By Serin Simpson,  
Whalley Range High School  
joint 1st Place Year 7 Winner

## The Seed That Grew

A seed, all alone, longing to grow,  
Where it came from, nobody knows,  
Did it come from the sky,  
Maybe a bird dropped it from up high,  
It could have come from the ground,  
A seed that a little insect found.

Soon after, a huge shock,  
Turned has the clock,  
A podgy hand snatched the seed up,  
And placed it in a glass cup,  
After days, it starts to sprout,  
The seed ends its lifetime pout.

Two weeks have passed,  
The seed feels blessed,  
Next the seed is carried outside,  
And is put aside,  
It's placed in a pot and covered in soil,  
The seed feels itself beginning to boil.

Before long, the sun starts to shine,  
The sun's rays begin to align,  
Twice a day, the seed bathes in water,  
The seed applauds her,  
Applauds the woman that cares for it like a child,  
Not like an animal in the wild.

Five weeks later, the seed has blossomed,  
The woman feels honoured,  
To have grown her own flowers,  
She feels as if she has superpowers,  
They have a fiery, orange colour,  
Their beauty make her stutter.

After the flowers comes the fruit,  
This seed deserves a salute,  
The fruit is long and thin,  
With dark green skin,  
A scrumptious courgette,  
Like one you've never met.

The courgette is fully grown,  
You would have never known,  
That this juicy, new fruit was once a little seed,  
Scared, alone and in need,  
But now it's time to pick this creation,  
And give the world a taste sensation!

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# Manchester City of Literature

By Nimrah Kamal,  
Levenshulme High School  
1st Place Year 7 Winner

## Light in the dark galaxy

Dark sky, Dark night  
Milky stars, Bright breeze  
Stars in your eyes,  
Meteor showers raining by,  
Dark & bright,  
In you I see light,  
Beyond the Galaxy  
Inside the universe,  
Black holes & asteroids  
Flying our way  
Dust fills our lungs,  
Hallucinations of perfect galaxies,  
It's the sun and moon,  
Divined

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By Mariam Attya,  
The East Manchester Academy  
1st Place Year 7 Winner

## The world in its light

If science made us, and we made 'science'  
Why are we flooded with endless questions,  
Which burn in the mind like scorching stone, they  
Refuse to release from the depths of thought,  
All this around us, from the fish we caught,  
To the ships we bought, the land on we fought,  
It all makes me wonder, should the world be  
Microscopic or astronomical?

Ridiculous queries we ponder. Are  
Above us the stars? Below us the sea?  
Beyond the stars, places we cannot flee?  
The sun, the rain, the tide, our brain from which  
We gain knowledge we can't just restrain,  
Oh, but here we are restrained and in pain,  
Never knowing enough, driving down the  
Wrong lane, Oh what is it all anyway?

To observe a cycle from start to end,  
To inspect, monitor, to recognize,  
To combine elements, watch metal bend,  
To dig, to drill, to examine the skies,  
To discover gravity, just to see.  
To ask questions that no one has before,  
To grow a whole field or just one tree,  
Is that science? Exploding chemicals?

Or is science much more we just don't see?  
I wake and ponder, will they ever end?  
These questions marks never finite, how I  
Wish they were, but wishes never grant true.  
Will we ever see the world in its light?  
We ask if it will end, not how to change,  
Guess we never will this world is so strange.

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# Manchester City of Literature

By Marina Ciubotari,  
The East Manchester Academy  
1st Place Year 8 Winner

## Have you ever wondered?

Have you ever looked up and thought wow?  
So many stars but don't know how  
Luminant shimmer across the diamond night  
Oh yes it is that golden light  
Tear rolling down your cheek  
Lost ones trying to peek  
Memories fill up your mind  
Black holes trying to be kind  
Have you ever wondered if you were lost in space?  
Unknown people glaring at your obscure face  
Alcyone  
Altair  
You name them all  
But deep down you know you'll fall  
That spheroid of plasma held together by self-gravity  
Has made a wonderful thing by becoming reality  
The oldest star 16 billion years old  
Knowing that your heart will fold  
Behind that beautiful sky what's there under  
Once again have you ever wondered?



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By Brooklyn Thompson,  
The East Manchester Academy  
1st Place Year 10 Winner

## I Wonder

I wonder what it would be like  
if I was them.

I wonder what it would be like  
if I did that different.

I wonder? I wonder? I wonder?

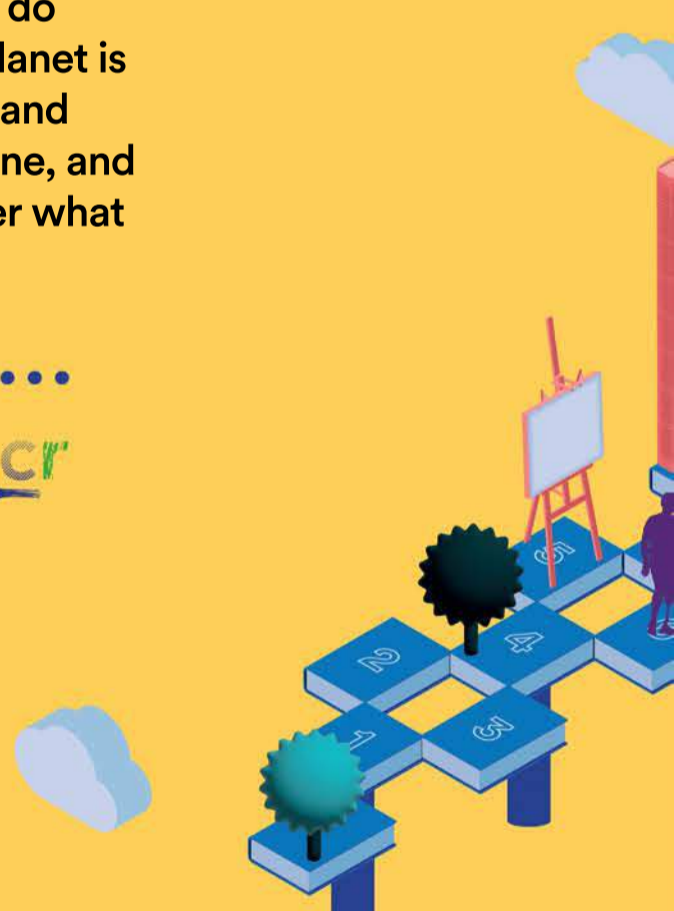
I wonder what it would be like  
with no global warming here.

I wonder what it would be like  
if there was no fear about  
weather the planet could  
soon be gone.

There is one thing I do  
truly wonder, the planet is  
slowly burning out and  
nothing is being done, and  
sometimes I wonder what  
is going on!

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# Manchester City of Literature

By Eshaal Rishan,  
Whalley Range High School  
1st Place Year 8 Winner

## Altered Memories

They talk about the build up  
of toxins in a single organism.

The build up of leaves from  
a single tree.

But for people like me, it's the build  
up of people in a single body.

If I could express the loneliness I  
feel whilst living with this disease,  
the whole world would be able to  
hear me.

If the amygdala could overheat, I  
would have already exploded.

The fear of not knowing what you  
will remember when you wake up,  
what you will feel, what you will  
think and what you will be, all of  
these things unbearable.

As the regions in my brain  
involved in memories and emotions  
change, so do I.

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## Schools Writing Trail

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By Amira Shahid,  
Whalley Range High School  
1st Place Year 9 Winner

## Untitled

Science is all around us,  
In every single way.

From the smallest of atoms

To the stars far away.

We see it in the natural world,

In animals, plants, and earth.

In the way they grow and function,

And see what they are worth.

We hear it in the

thunderclap,

In the songs that birds do sing.

The sound waves that surround us,

As we dance and laugh and sing.

We feel it in the wind that blows,

In the heat of the summer sun.

The force of gravity upon us,

As we move when we have fun.

We taste it in the food we eat,

And drink when we are dry.

The chemistry of cooking,

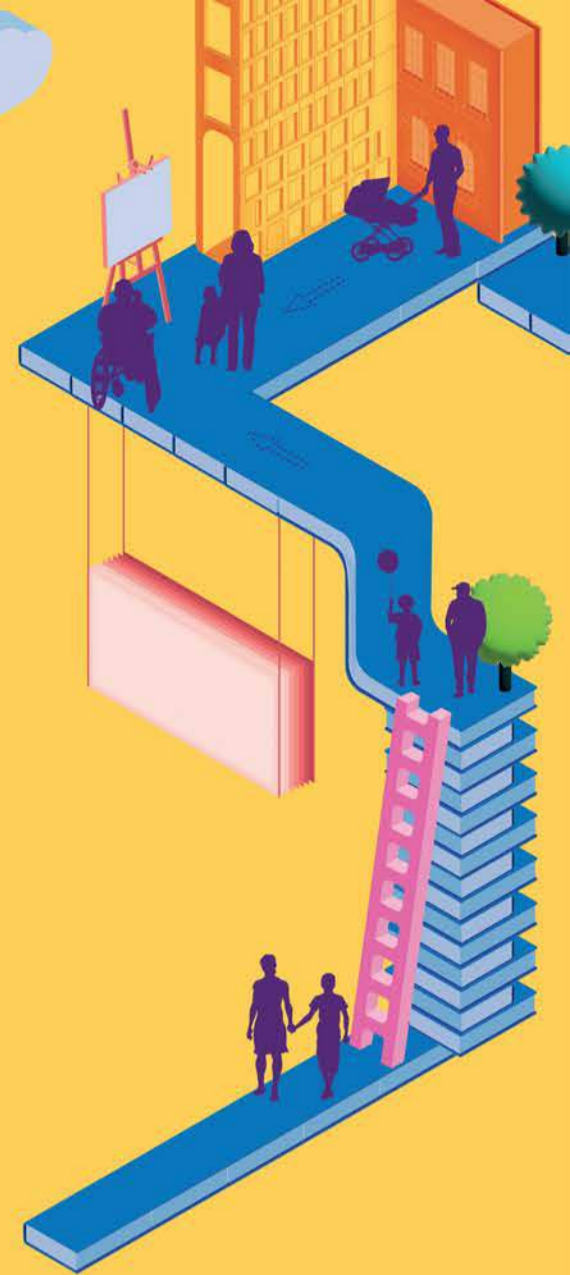
Making flavours to our delight.

Science is all around us,

In every single way.

We can see it if we just stop

And take notice each day.



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By Mohammad Jawad,  
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1st Place Year 7 Winner

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All the gears on course,  
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Fast cars so expensive  
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something that works with electricity,  
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By Arazw Hasan,  
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By Serin Simpson, Whalley Range High School  
joint 1st Place Year 7 Winner

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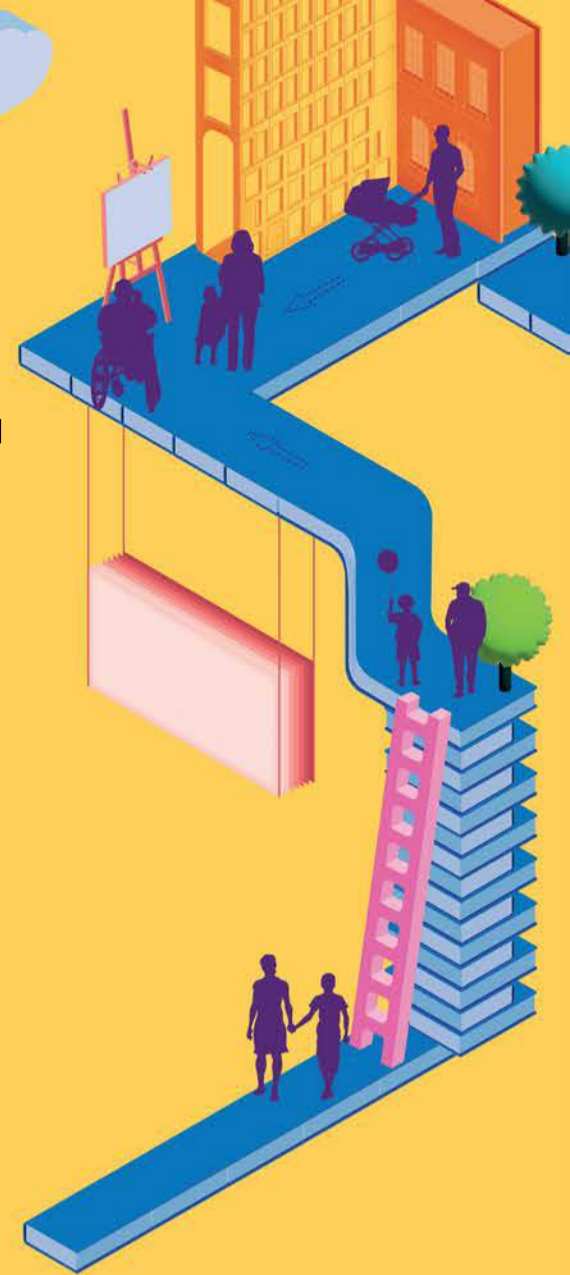
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# Manchester City of Literature

By Roheen Dar,  
Whalley Range High School  
1st Place Year 10 Winner

## All the Parts You No Longer Love

Dig in with your fingers, peel apart my brain.  
Our love shadows any pain.  
Pluck out my eyes.  
Rip them apart till it no longer cries.  
Tell me they no longer glisten,  
reassure me that I will no longer miss them.

I knew that look dear,  
I recall it so very clear.  
Pull the veins out my heart, keep tearing it apart.  
You tell me 'it's alright, don't put up a fight.'  
You want another bite of my heart.  
One last taste of my best art.

Do you recall my love for you?  
You scream my words are no longer true.  
You did into my body, you no longer feel proud of your Olympus  
I feel your anger as you erode my Incus.

You ruin the best parts of me, parts you could not longer love  
Place me gently in my grave, surround me by foxglove.  
You throw me in, place only one yellow carnation  
I beg you for an answer, what is the reason for my damnation?

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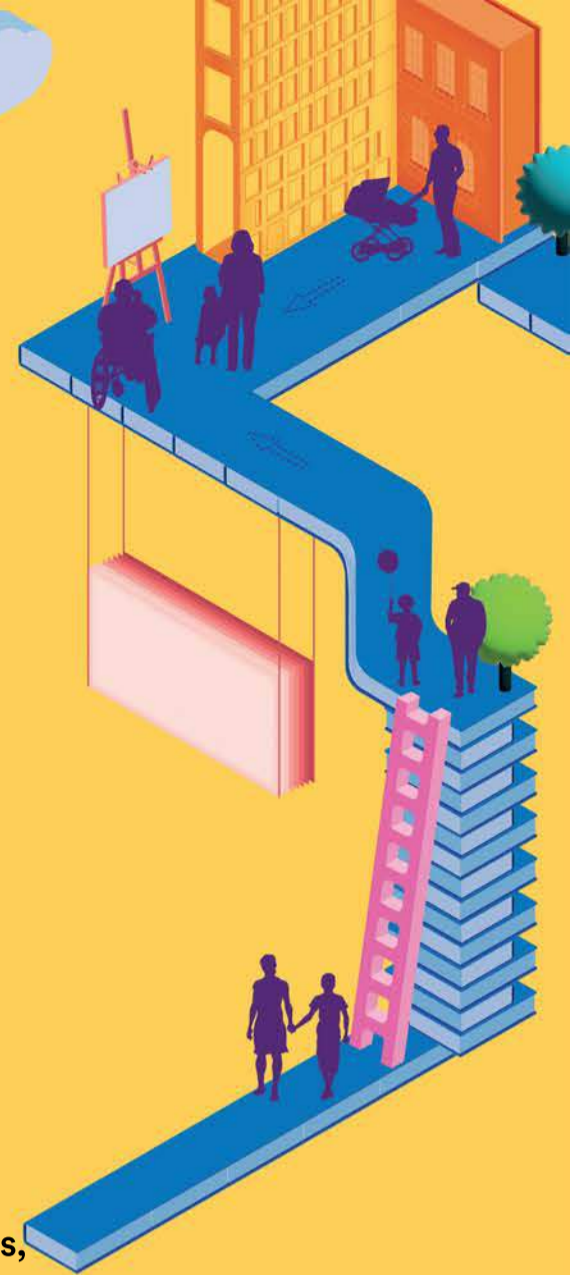


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By Nimrah Kamal,  
Levenshulme High School  
1st Place Year 7 Winner

## Light in the dark galaxy

Dark sky, Dark night  
Milky stars, Bright breeze  
Stars in your eyes,  
Meteor showers raining by,  
Dark & bright,  
In you I see light,  
Beyond the Galaxy  
Inside the universe,  
Black holes & asteroids  
Flying our way  
Dust fills our lungs,  
Hallucinations of perfect galaxies,  
It's the sun and moon,  
Divined  
tonight



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# Manchester City of Literature

By Mariam Attya,  
The East Manchester Academy  
1st Place Year 7 Winner

## The world in its light

If science made us, and we made 'science'  
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Which burn in the mind like scorching stone, they  
Refuse to release from the depths of thought,  
All this around us, from the fish we caught,  
To the ships we bought, the land on we fought,  
It all makes me wonder, should the world be  
Microscopic or astronomical?

Ridiculous queries we ponder. Are  
Above us the stars? Below us the sea?  
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We gain knowledge we can't just restrain,  
Oh, but here we are restrained and in pain,  
Never knowing enough, driving down the  
Wrong lane, Oh what is it all anyway?

To observe a cycle from start to end,  
To inspect, monitor, to recognize,  
To combine elements, watch metal bend,  
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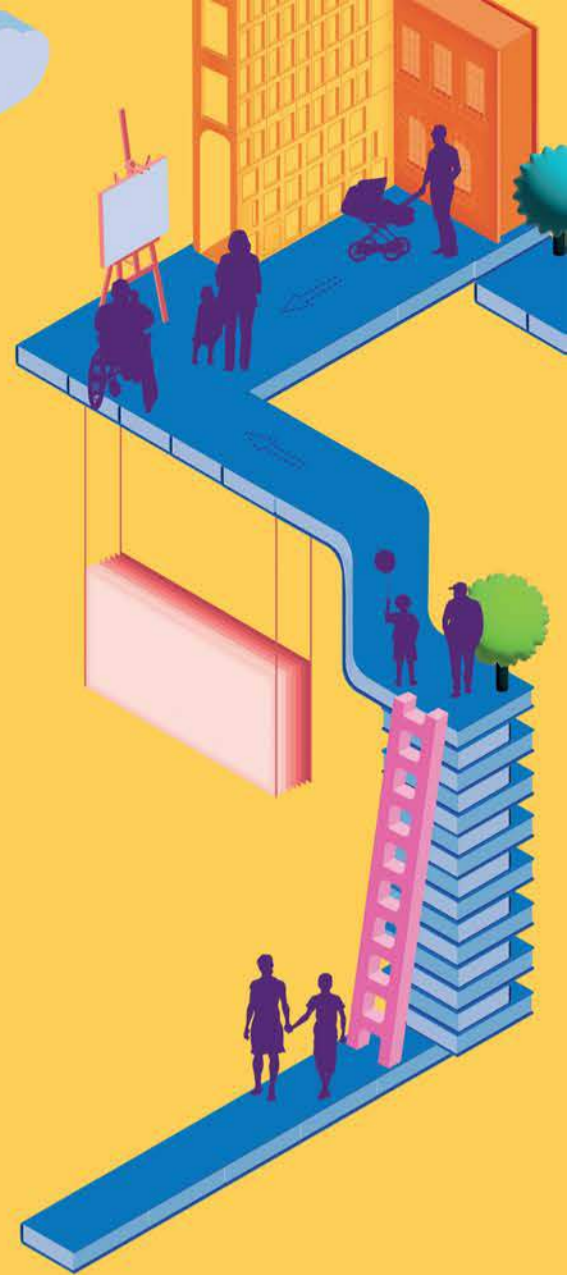
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# Manchester City of Literature

By Marina Ciubotari,  
The East Manchester Academy  
1st Place Year 8 Winner

Have you ever wondered?

Have you ever looked up and thought wow?  
So many stars but don't know how  
Luminant shimmer across the diamond night  
Oh yes it is that golden light  
Tear rolling down your cheek  
Lost ones trying to peek  
Memories fill up your mind  
Black holes trying to be kind  
Have you ever wondered if you were lost in space?  
Unknown people glaring at your obscure face  
Alcyone  
Altair  
You name them all  
But deep down you know you'll fall  
That spheroid of plasma held together by self-gravity  
Has made a wonderful thing by becoming reality  
The oldest star 16 billion years old  
Knowing that your heart will fold  
Behind that beautiful sky what's there under  
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By Brooklyn Thompson,  
The East Manchester Academy  
1st Place Year 10 Winner

I Wonder

I wonder what it would be like  
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if I did that different.

I wonder? I wonder? I wonder?

I wonder what it would be like  
with no global warming here.

I wonder what it would be like  
if there was no fear about  
weather the planet could  
soon be gone.

There is one thing I do  
truly wonder, the planet is  
slowly burning out and  
nothing is being done, and  
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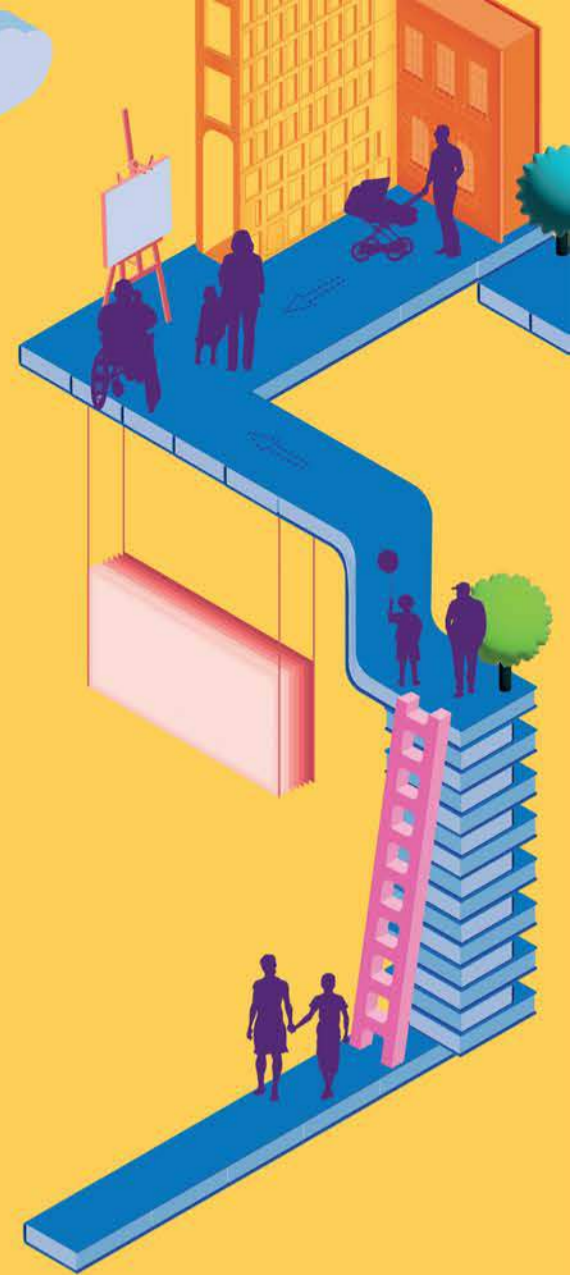
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# Manchester City of Literature

By Zonaira Khan,  
Levenshulme High School  
2nd Place Year 7 Winner

## Nature

Nature is Everywhere. Nature is everywhere you go. Everything that lives and grows is nature. Animals big and small. Nature is planets that grow so tall. Nature is beautiful in every way. Wonderful, exciting and needs our care. Close your eyes and you can see the way the world's supposed to be. Sunrise on a clear blue sky, fields of daisies, soft butterflies, tall trees, leaves glistening with dew streams and rivers flowing through. Birds singing and flying high gentle breeze with cloudless skies. Snow caps on the mountains tops valley of green that never stops. Ocean waves and pure white sand animals grazing on the land. Feel the wind in your hair smell the flowers, blossoms everywhere. See the beauty, today is new enjoy nature – God's gift to you. The leaves in the water sit almost perfectly still with each coarse ripple they tremble and shake. Inching closer to the shore and our gently rustling boat.



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By Adhain Mohammad,  
Burnage Academy for Boys  
2nd Place Year 7 Winner

## Untitled

Humans, the sky, the tall, tall trees,  
What has science to do with these?  
Or with Mars, the mountains or the treacherous seas,  
Well science has explained all of them.

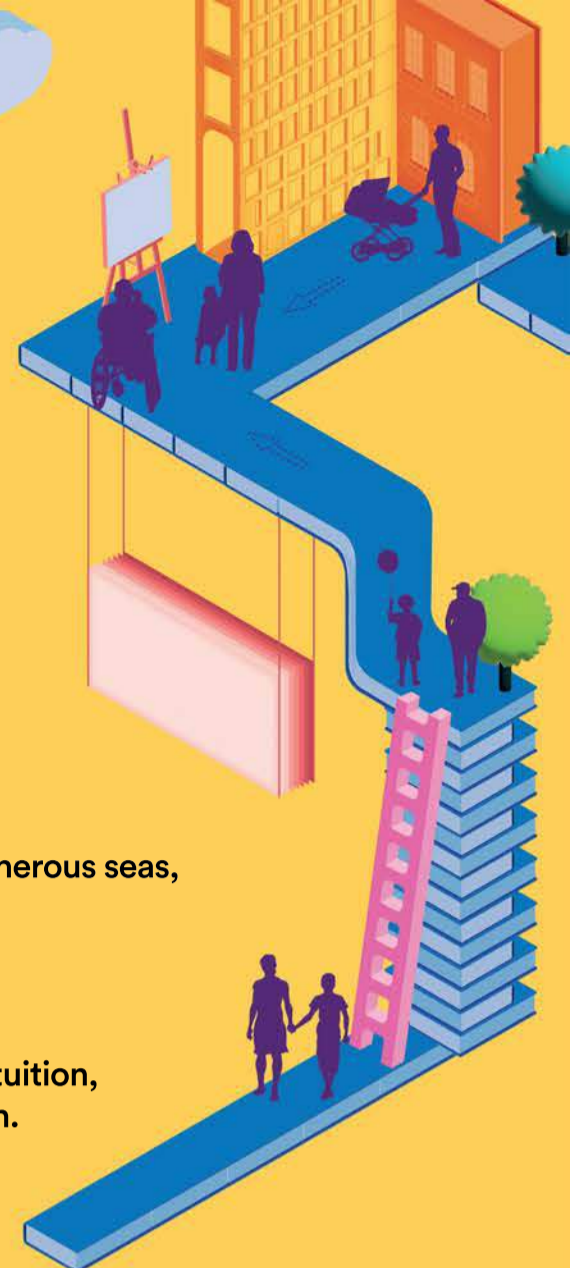
We are creating horrible pollution,  
We need to find a sustainable solution,  
Little girls and boys need to be taught in tuition,  
Be careful what you do it affects the Earth.

This is our home,  
We have the technology,  
So everybody unite and become a green prodigy,  
Earth is our home and we should protect it.

If any aliens out there need to know,  
Global warming here is a humongous no no.  
There are glaciers, lakes and refreshing winds  
That make Earth look like a natural diamond ring.

So, as you see Earth is exotic,  
And sometimes I wonder why go to Mars?  
Earth already is always the best.

So that means...  
We have the technology,  
So instead of studying astrology,  
Use technology to help us...use it to help the earth.



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# Manchester City of Literature

By Jordan Byfield,  
The East Manchester Academy  
2nd Place Year 7 Winner

Untitled

I look up into the sky at night and I see  
Stars, they twinkle and shine in the starry night  
Sky, there bright as diamonds, for generations and  
Generations stars have glowed in the starry  
Night sky, stars are burning each second of our lives,  
When you are bored and laying down on a  
Starry night, think to yourself, how are stars beautiful and suitable in the starry night.

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By Paris Hedgecock,  
The East Manchester Academy  
2nd Place Year 8 Winner

Dear Aliens, I'm Sorry

We've done so wrong,  
we've allowed ourselves to be so strong,  
that we've polluted our planet beyond repair,  
by taking more than we can ever spare.

The sky is no longer blue,  
the air is no longer fresh,  
our water is polluted,  
our lands are a mess!

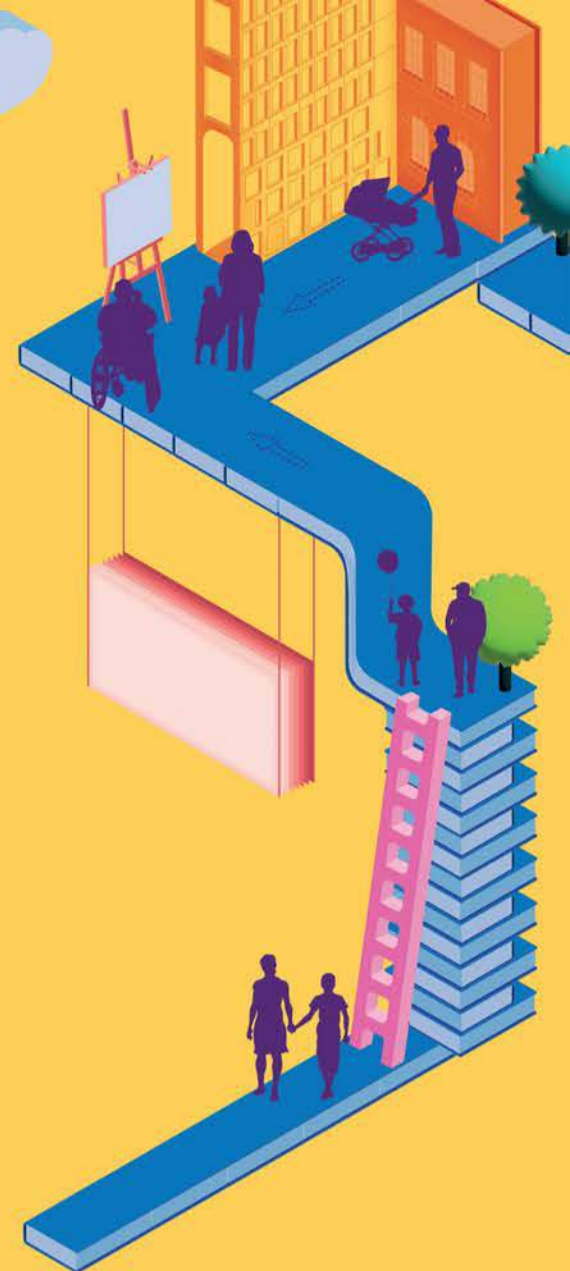
We've taken it all for granted,  
we've destroyed the earth's beauty,  
we've allowed it to rot away,  
with no signs of recovery.

We've caused so much harm to our planet,  
Our home, that our future is uncertain,  
and we are left alone.

We've taken too much,  
and we've nothing to give back,  
so now our planet's broken,  
and there is no undoing that.

We've failed to protect her, we've failed to be kind,  
so our planet is doomed, and there's no  
changing our minds.

We've told the aliens, how we've ruined our earth,  
but our message is too late, for it's already been  
cursed.



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# Manchester City of Literature

By Cruz Reid,  
Burnage Academy for Boys  
Joint 3rd Place Year 7 Winner

## Space's Wonders

telescope  
full of hope  
zooming in  
come on, we know you're all tuning in,  
all the beautiful planets  
some shaped like pomegranates  
shining through the stars  
some in spaceships some  
in cars!  
shooting off we even  
see Mars!

By Haris Waqas,  
The East Manchester Academy  
Joint 3rd Place Year 7 Winner

## Ocean

Deep down in the sapphire, glistening ocean  
past the barrier reef but is the ocean  
never ending? How deep or steep is the ocean? Down  
below the mesmerising ocean swims fish,  
sharks, whales, dolphins and all different  
creatures who wander around making curious  
sounds. Swimming down to the ground seeing  
mysterious holes in the rock walls. Coral  
dancing proudly. Waves smashing loudly. Sea  
weed waving while bathing with the sun  
shining on them.

By Zainal Muhammed,  
Levenshulme High School  
3rd Place Year 7 Winner

## Untitled

Why do I love the moon  
Its pale eyes  
And frail goodbyes  
As it fades to blue  
Too soon  
The softest beams  
Does wrap it seems  
All romance  
In cocoon  
Why do I love the sun  
That brings us fun  
To everyone  
Brightest fellow in the skies  
He wears dark clouds as his disguise  
On spectral necklace  
A million candles  
The woo the reckless  
Silently sailing everyone's dreams  
To islands of flickering idyllic scenes  
A wealth of king Neptune  
The boss of the wave  
Who sits on the ocean  
And makes it behave  
Eight planets around the sun  
Listen as I call each one  
Curving now  
And moving fast  
The wave rolls higher than the dead of war



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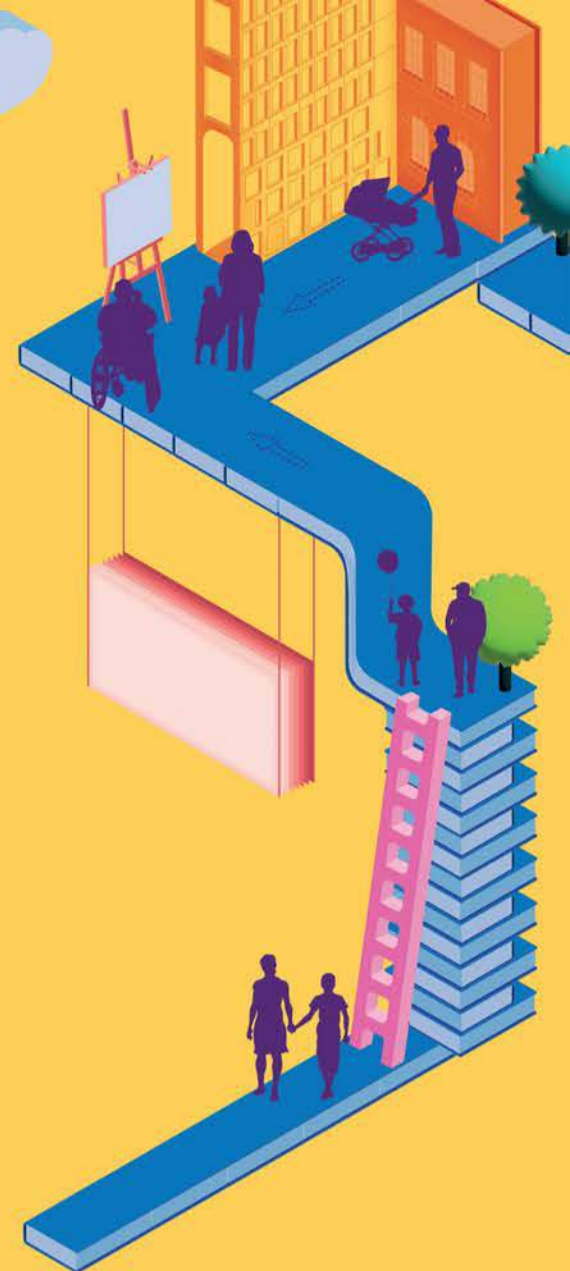
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# Manchester City of Literature

By Lourdes Boakye,  
The East Manchester Academy  
3rd Place Year 7 Winner

## Untitled

I wonder why we don't play everyday  
I wonder why we don't do what we say  
I wonder what life is to me  
I wonder what else there is to see  
I wonder why we are even here  
I wonder what more we can hear  
There is more to life than I know  
But when will it truly show  
If rain didn't fall out  
Would we even put up a brawl  
I wonder and wonder, I wish, I wish  
But when will I ever persist  
If life was just like a boat  
Would we sink or would we float

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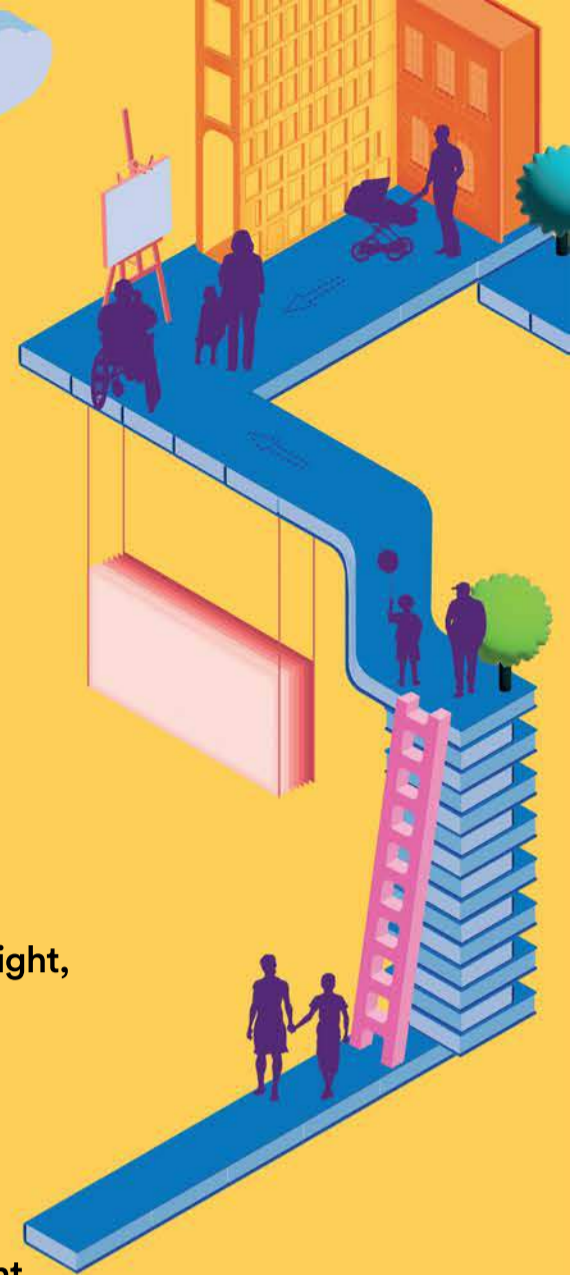
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By Elijah Kirkickaite,  
The East Manchester Academy  
3rd Place Year 8 Winner

## Take a Closer Look

Take a closer look at the starry night,  
Or perhaps the process of flight  
Look at him counting the crumbs in the sky,  
But secretly he is just pondering why  
Take a closer look at the shapes in the starry night,  
Astronauts above trying to make it right  
Or perhaps they are just there for the sight  
People looking up into the endless dark,  
When in reality it's nothing but fragile bark

Take a look at the globes in the starry night,  
How people look at the blanket with such fright  
Look at the flaming rocks passing by,  
They aren't hitting earth but why  
Take a closer look to the rings in the starry night,  
Floating around like a lost kite  
Or perhaps is it you who is truly lost,  
You don't believe, so I guess not  
Take a closer look at the men in the starry night  
They all had just achieved flight  
But yet they have so much regret  
As their lives haven't been complete yet.



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# Manchester City of Literature

By Abdullah Ashar,  
Burnage Academy for Boys  
Honourable Mention Year 7

## Untitled

Twinkling high  
up in the sky  
I am a star, shining  
bright and high.  
With a radiance  
that fills the night  
I dance among the  
darkness I can bright

By Adam Khan,  
Burnage Academy for Boys  
Honourable Mention Year 7

## Earth Poem

Planet Earth, our home so dear  
is filled with life, far and near,  
from mountains high to oceans wide,  
a stunning world we can't deny.

From the skies above to the ground below,  
our planet is where we learn and grow.  
We must take care and do what's right  
to protect this Earth day and night.

For every action we take and every choice we make  
affects our planet in a real and significant way.  
So let's work together and do our part,  
to keep our home healthy and full of heart.

With every step we take and every breath we  
breathe, let's remember that we are one with  
this Earth beneath. And treat it with  
respect and love.



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By Arash Ranjbar,  
Burnage Academy for Boys  
Honourable Mention Year 7

## I wonder

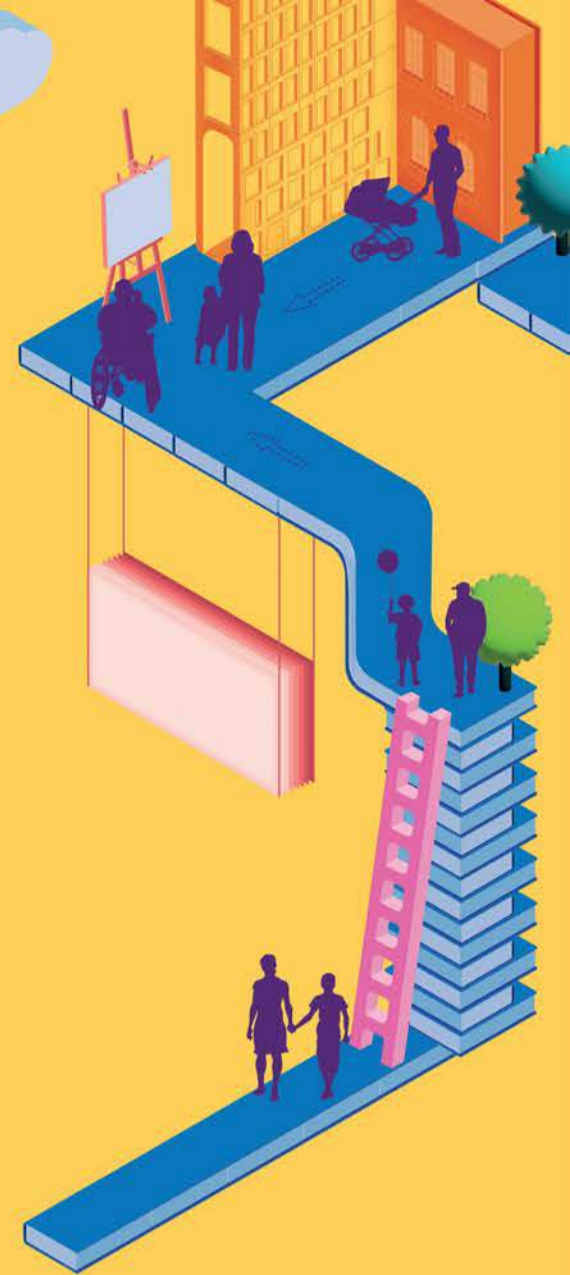
I wonder who gave the stars shape?  
I wonder why stars shine so beautifully?  
I wonder how far are stars?  
I wonder why do stars only shine at night?  
I wonder why I wonder why.

I wonder why flowers are so beautiful?  
I wonder why flowers are so pretty?  
I wonder who made flowers so beautiful?  
I never want flowers to go extinct.  
I never want that to happen.



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# Manchester City of Literature

By Muhammad Arshmaam,  
Burnage Academy for Boys  
Honourable Mention Year 7

## Atoms

An atom is small miniscule rare,  
and electrons in orbit, electrons galore!  
But how it builds mountains, I'm not really sure.  
See, only a fraction is matter,  
and the rest, I would guess, doesn't matter.  
Me, I am vast with a dream at my core,  
and ideas in Orbit, ideas galore,  
I think I am real but  
I'm not sure.  
See only a fraction is matter,  
and the rest, I would guess, is what matters.

By Hasan Rafiq,  
Burnage Academy for Boys  
Honourable Mention Year 7

## Other Life

Oh other life  
Whose eyes are set on our blue oceans and green land  
Beware  
For you might encounter  
Money... Disasters may trouble you  
Pollution may consume you  
Or  
Perhaps the government may shoot you down  
Or  
You may land just in  
Time for WW3  
Between 1 people and some oil  
So Other Life  
If considering landing on our misleading  
Blue oceans and green land  
Beware



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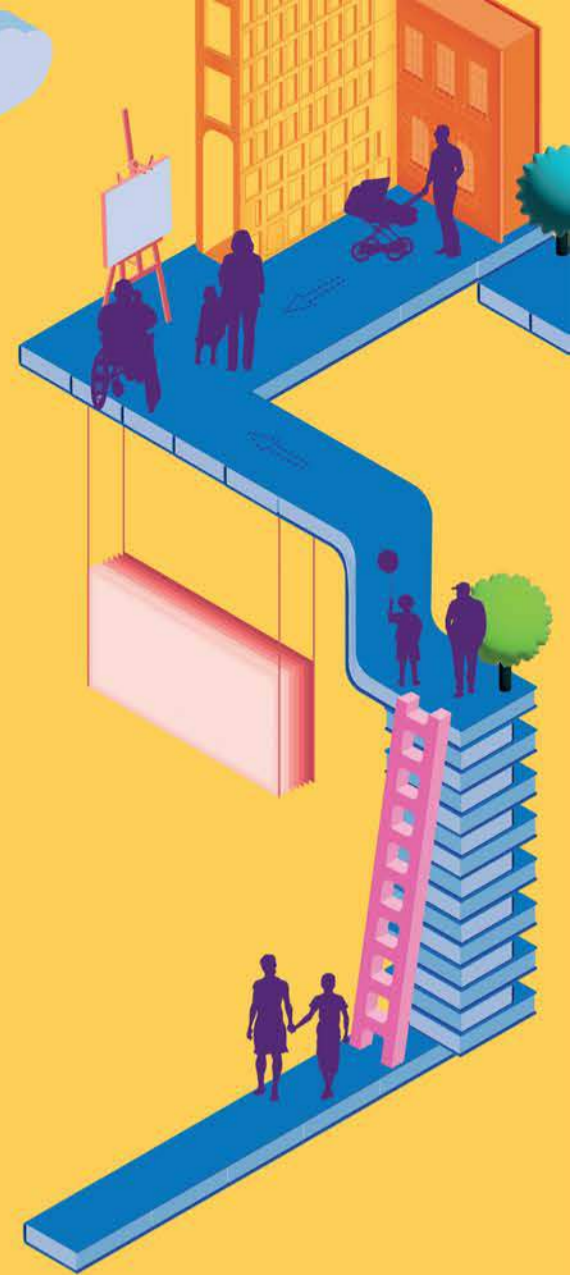
By Zahi Khan,  
Burnage Academy for Boys  
Honourable Mention Year 7

## Space

How large is the Earth?  
How large is our galaxy?  
How large are you?  
Do you think you are tall?  
Because everyone is actually quite small!  
Compared with the rest,  
the Earth is really one of the best!  
The way it can grow life,  
without much strife.  
It is quite inspiring, really,  
the way it cares for us so dearly.  
I am going to say it quite clearly,  
Space is the best.



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# Manchester City of Literature

By Menahil Imran,  
Whalley Range High School  
Honourable Mention Year 7

An excerpt from **Mosaic**

There is a picture  
A mosaic, red, white, and real  
As the shakes give way,  
It becomes clear  
Clear and incomplete

It's familiar  
The red silhouette sparks a half formed memory  
Recognisable, but missing something  
Something you know but haven't quite finished discovering

There is a gap  
Jagged and small but there  
It's not quite big enough to be gaping  
It's not quite small enough to be patched  
The glass shards blink and plead  
To be complete

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By Aleeha Kiani,  
Levenshulme High School  
Honourable Mention Year 7

**Einstein**

I want to think like a scientist  
Observing animals earth or sky  
I want to ask good questions  
Wondering how, and what and why

I want to make smart guesses,  
Hypothesizing what might happen,  
I want to do cool experiments  
Testing my thinking again and again.

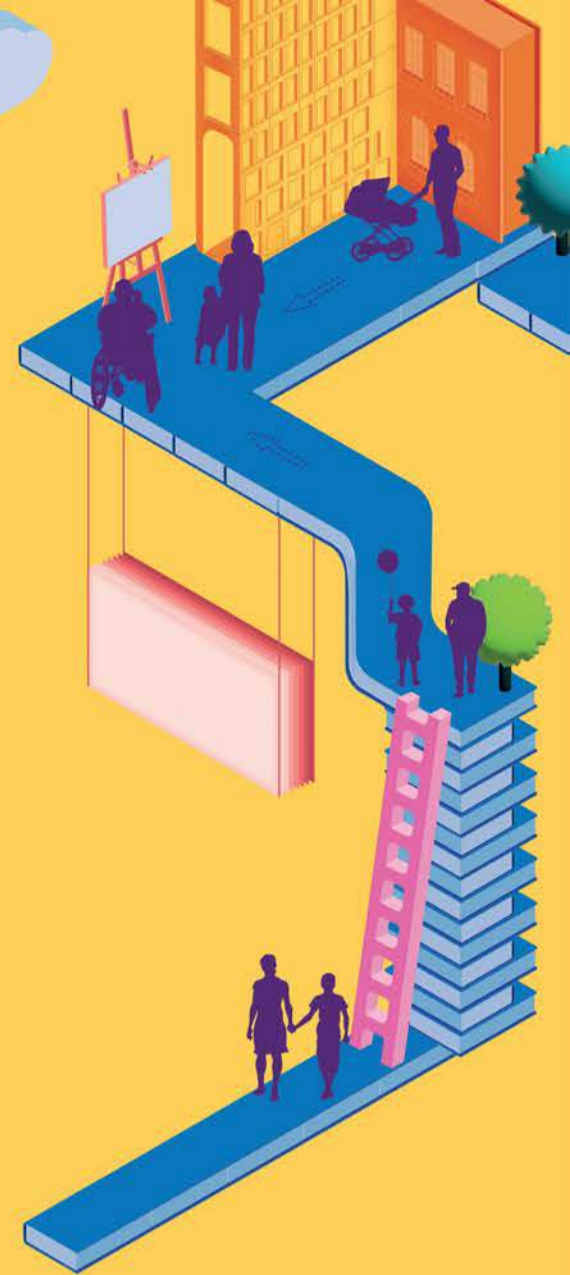
I want to write up all my data,  
Recording pictures charts or words,  
I want to think through all I've done,  
Drawing conclusions about what I've learned.

Wondering, asking, testing, concluding,  
This is what scientists do.  
If you want to think like a scientist,  
Then you must do that too.

By Fatime Elani Arif,  
Levenshulme High School  
Honourable Mention Year 7

**What am I? Oxygen.**

I am around  
Scattered  
I keep life on earth humming  
You cant live without me.  
You need me to live.  
To remain healthy.  
You breath me in and out.  
22,000 times a day  
Without realising.  
You cant see me  
What am I?



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# Manchester City of Literature

By Isha Hayat,  
The East Manchester Academy  
Honourable Mention Year 7

## Birds

I wonder how there are different species; they show their beauty which turns wildness into wildness!  
Hearts as bright as the moon, as they prepare to sleep at noon!  
I wonder and ponder, why the grey are prey!

By Daniel Onasanya,  
The East Manchester Academy  
Honourable Mention Year 7

## What's Science?

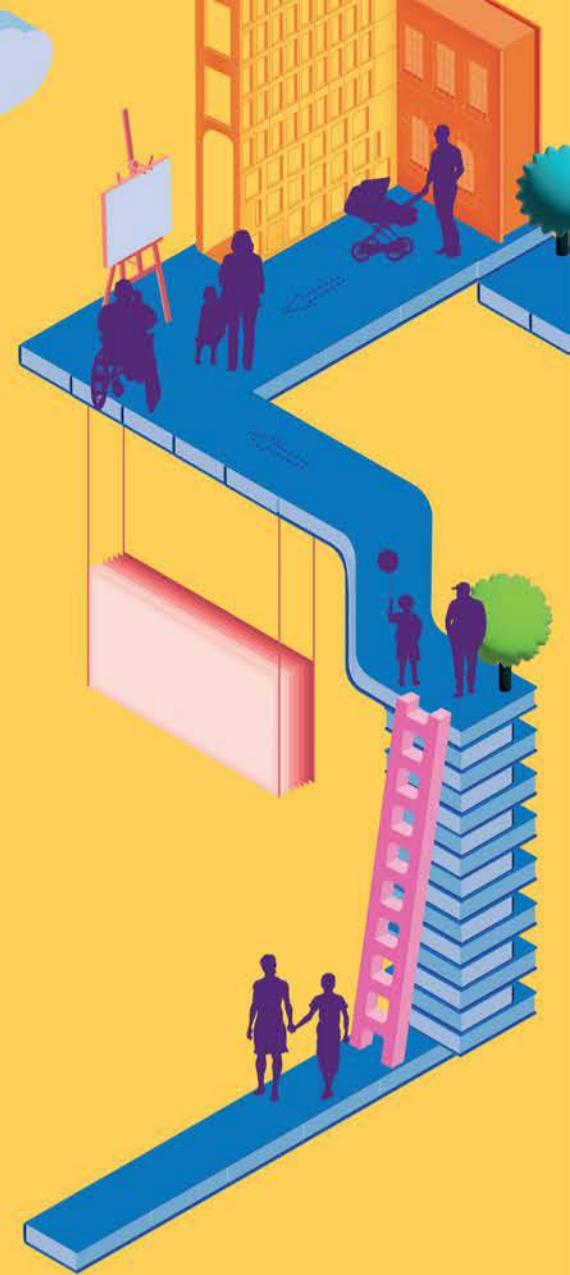
Science: it's all around us, it makes us wonder,  
What might be out there, will it come near?  
Science: it gives us lots and made us smart,  
What make you say wow? The planet or ocean?  
What made you stay down when you jump now?  
We formed an alliance and made science,  
We went to space and found a truce,  
Maybe aliens are in outer space?  
Freeze don't breathe,  
Look at the breeze, please,  
Shines like the sun or stars.  
It's vast as Science the sea  
Reflects the sky you see  
It's science tells us the time,  
So why should we whine?

Nothing works without science,  
Yes also your good kitchen appliance  
It may be observation or identification,  
Description or experimental investigation,  
But do not limit your mind,  
It's the knowledge of any kind  
We found out lions because of science,  
We made sirens, science is priceless,  
It's science so don't be biased,  
Without it where would we be?



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# Manchester City of Literature

By Cyrus Nixon,  
The East Manchester Academy  
Honourable Mention Year 8

## Untitled

Imagine if dreams came alive  
like you could walk on water,  
or drive to the stars.  
How about  
you could change weather with a snap,  
or grow your mind like a flower.  
How about  
you could dive into the ocean,  
or change things around you.  
How about  
if you could fly,  
or see how it would be to  
change something.  
But what if  
it all came true like you might  
have wanted  
to make rainbows touchable?  
Or make somewhere for peace?  
Or make thunder not be scary?  
But I would make dreams come true.



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By Mercy Osifesto,  
The East Manchester Academy  
Honourable Mention Year 8

## The Wonders of the Galaxy

Why does the rainbow come out after it rains?  
Why do the stars come out when the moon shines bright?  
Why does the sun go down when the moon comes up?  
These are my wonders about the Galaxy.  
I put my hand up in the sky at night but can't touch  
the stars.  
I look in the sky,  
and sigh,  
How many mysteries are beyond this planet?  
I always wonder, but don't know how far it goes,  
Is it all just a void in space?  
Or is there more beyond the galaxy?  
If I go up to space,  
can I touch the stars?  
I wonder again  
why does the sky change colour then the sun sets,  
turn dark at night and bright during the day?  
When ancestors die do they watch you through the  
stars, or is it just a myth?  
Can I get all my answers? Or  
will I get more questions?  
These are my wonders about the galaxy.  
Who made the universe and what was the purpose?  
Can I find Him?  
If I do, will He tell me answers?  
Or will I just get more questions?  
Why is the universes so complicated?  
Are there even answers to my questions?  
Is everything in the universe even real?  
Do dreams really come true?  
Where do dreams come from?  
How do we get our imaginative ideas?  
Do they really just fizz?  
Yet again just more wonders.  
I know one day,  
I'll get the answers  
to  
The wonders of the Galaxy.



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