

**1<sup>st</sup> place - Jackson Hunter, Gr. 8, J.H. Putman, Ottawa, ON: *Before***

**Before**

i can remember when  
she told me that she once  
loved to paint  
the tales of our lives  
with only the brightest colours,  
but i suppose that was  
before  
our world became grey

i can remember when  
he whispered to me  
that he used to  
plan  
what our lives  
could become  
after  
we finally returned home

i can remember when  
i used to write poetry  
back when my words would  
craft tales of bliss  
and drift off the pages like smoke  
but i guess that was

Before

i left