

**2nd place - Amanda Marino, Gr. 12, Langley Fundamental Middle Secondary School, Langley,
BC: *Lost in Translation***

Lost in Translation

Crammed between these wooden planks
Like filthy cattle
Hearts beating fiercely
Through the putrid stench
Of disease and decay
Hearts beating fiercely
For freedom
Hunched over, starving, seasick
Sagging like dying trees
Stomachs aching for a home-cooked meal
But our home has been stolen
Children wailing
For mothers and fathers
Killed by the bombs
Brothers and sisters
Caught in the crossfire
Hearts beating fiercely
But with each passing day
The heartbeats lessen
When we arrive
At our destination
Will the people there hear us?
Or will our existence
Become lost in translation