

Overall Winner

## **Truth the Spider**

I often wonder. When I say to my child  
“Tell the truth” what would happen if they said  
it back. If all the horrors like a cruel  
pamphlet burst out yelling “Why, child,  
did you think the grass was green?”  
If I stood there, confessing. Held at gun  
point by a small arm rather than simply gazing  
green with something that desires into wide eyes.  
If the graceful dandelion were to be  
mashed, mashed into green mulch by knives –  
sharp cutting into a chicken’s heart. Crush!  
That evil curiosity which like a spider reels in  
another shuddering corpse. So when the child  
does finally ask I hack the web down. Grimacing.

Olly Salter

Year 7 Winner

## **What is Truth?**

Truth is a wonder,  
It can pull people asunder,  
It can bring them together,  
Forever and ever,  
It is what people hide,  
It is what people seek,  
It is from the heart,  
And that's unique!  
Like water, it's ever changing,  
Like a statue, it's ever still,  
It's the remedy to anxiety,  
It's the foundation of society,  
It's what gives life a true meaning,  
It's Truth.

Zak Ahmed

Year 8 Winner

## **The Potency of Truth**

Truth binds, it flows, it hoaxes and coaxes,  
It is the rock from which empires are borne,  
It is the oxymoron of the ages,  
For it is bitter sweet, for its cruel kindness.

One might say the potency of truth,  
Is judged by the significance of it,  
But when our trust is betrayed we know that,  
It is naught but the lies we tell ourselves.

Truth is the lover you thought you knew,  
But who am I to dictate and tell you,  
Truth is the phantom which man has chased,  
Our fingers have merely brushed its wanted hem.

But I will say the potency of truth,  
Is judged on the impact it has on you.

Vaibhav Gaddi

Year 9 Winner

## **Truth**

The sun can barely touch the table top,  
Yet it discloses more than eyes can see.  
The truth is the focus of the camera;  
It hunts all avoidance and denial.  
My life has its foundation on trust, truth,  
But truth has fled the grasp of my envy.  
In the dark I'm free, shunning all concern,  
The shrill sun bites my ever-growing joy.  
Accept truth, ignore truth, doesn't matter,  
It still lurks in the tenebrosity.  
I must escape the clutches of this force,  
But time cackles and embezzles all hope.  
Every wound I earn gives off the same scent;  
Truth hurts, even if that's not the intent.

Dhruv Chadha

Year 11 Winner

## **Truth**

What spins the eyes of man about the land?  
Upon gears of nature, humankind,  
Doth sail these earthly gyres to understand,  
The universal truth and yet be blind.  
No god doth push our eyes to contemplate,  
Upon the substance of the world – the gorged  
And curious flame of man in empty fate  
Doth fuel pursuit of truths still stronger forged.  
O Helios of heav'n, you give not truths,  
But longing tides that read for sandy shores.  
If such grains of earth are not of sooth,  
Then what less bitter truth must we implore?  
The soul of fire, instilled behind our eyes,  
Is better sought than all the world comprise.

Vineeth Rajan

Year 12 Winner

## **Truth**

What lies hiding in the darker meanings  
Afraid to show us even but a glance  
The air it sparkles with a touch of fate  
The ground it vibrates with its hiss of hate

We search and search but still we cannot find  
This hidden gem, this artefact alive  
The deep eludes us hard though we may try  
We see only the remnants of our lies

But creation is steady 'though it dies  
And power corrupts even purest minds  
Oh cloak my eyes that I might see the light  
That till my last breath I may give it fight

For light is not a gift that we may share  
But lies, once spewed, which wallow in despair.

Dmitri Yendrzheyskiy