

Honorable Mention Junior Poetry  
Vienna August  
The Williams School, Ms. Casey Lee

### **Now Is Not Forever**

I am a star that shines no brighter than the others,  
But I have the potential to glow,

I have a face like any other,  
Different yet the same,

I didn't ask to be known,  
I set out to make a change,

I wished for the world to be a better place,  
A world where everyone is the same and free,

I didn't want to reach for the stars,  
Just the next rung of the ladder,

I do not want to be known as special,  
Because anyone can do what I have done,

Whether I write hidden words in a journal,  
March down the streets to demand equality,  
Or even fight for the minorities who aren't equally represented,  
I can begin to remake the world,  
Piece by piece,  
Brick by brick,

I did not ask for my words to be rewritten,  
I did not ask for fame to be laid at my feet as reward for my actions,  
I never believed I would become someone people would look to,  
I only believed love, freedom, equality, truth,

I just took a moment to stop,  
To listen,  
I heard the cries of injustice surrounding me,  
So I answered,

I echoed their pains to those who hadn't heard them,  
I spoke and wrote and cried and laughed,  
I yelled and screamed and chanted and it never ends,

I tell their stories with a passion,  
I grieve over their sadnesses as if they are my own,  
I have helped and been helped,  
Encouraged and been encouraged,  
By people I love and by total strangers,

With the help from my family,  
My friends,  
My predecessors,  
And even my enemies,  
From fictional characters like Christopher Robin,  
To my wonderful supporting mother,  
I have become what I am because of all the beautiful people in my life,

My goal,  
Engrave my words into those who need to hear it,  
Leave a mark in the ways I can,  
Be known for doing what I love for the people I love,  
For stoking a forgotten spark into a bellowing flame,

There is always something we can do,  
The need for improvement is abundant,  
Opportunities will come and go,  
There is not always the ability to make a valuable change,  
This door to endless possibilities will shut faster than it opens,

Or maybe, that door is always open,  
And our ignorance blinds us from it,

I am only the beginning,  
My goal never ends,

We have only a bit of time to mold our part of the world,  
So do what you can with it,  
The world is what it is now,  
But our now is not our forever,  
Imagine the possibilities,

Take a risk,  
Make the world you wish to see,

Create a new now that leads to a better forever.