“Uniqueness” by Hanah Rahmatullah
1st Place, Poetry 10-12
We are forever pressured

From a silly thing.

We will perish if we do not follow

The nagging voice inside calling and calling

"We must fit in".

Fitting in means having the same skin color, hair color, eye color.

Fitting in means sharing the same religion, personality, clothes.

Fitting in means being exactly the same.

We think that if we ignore the voice screaming inside our head,

That if for once we are different,

We will be teased and taunted.

We will be threatened and rejected.

We'll be the punch line of every joke,

The headline of gossip,

And...unique.

Yet what is the problem in standing out,

We must ask ourselves.

What's wrong in being apart from others,

If we have faith in ourselves?
So one's skin is brown.

So are the feathers of the mighty eagle.

So someone practices the religion of Islam.

That's their way of life.

We must push past the fears

Of being provoked and excluded,

We must silence the pestering voice

Urging us to play follow-the-leader with the world.

We must be ourselves.

And there will always be a friend on our side,

Even when others eliminate us.

He encourages us to embrace who we are, how He created us.

To love being unique.

God.