

**Judge: Sharon Jennings**

**Winner:**

Rhys Wawia, author of "Super Hero".

I chose this piece of writing for many reasons: it had a very strong message; there was a clear sense of classic story structure; it had a twist and a surprise ending that I didn't see coming; it felt very much like a young person's experience of the world. "Super Hero" stayed with me long after I had initially read it, and when I went back to it for a second and third reading, I was impressed all over again. A gentle, simple, uplifting story that will resonate with young children.

**Honourable mentions:**

Maya Quealey for "A Boat Called Freedom".

This is a very beautiful, poetic piece of writing. I was hooked with the first sentence and felt the distress and sorrow of Marita, the main character. I encourage Maya to think of herself as a gifted writer!

Avelyn Wong for "Changing the World, One Child at a Time".

In this piece of non-fiction, Avelyn tells about her friend Maddy, ten years old, who grew her hair to donate it to wigs for cancer. Soon, other girls in the school were doing the same thing. This is a heartfelt and very articulate article, its message authentic and child appropriate. A wonderful reminder that everyone can make a difference, no matter how young.