

1st Place (Schools Y7&8, 2023): Ava Rintoul McCready, Aropohue School, A View out the Classroom Window

When you take the time to glance out the classroom window you see normal things. Trees, grass and weeds. Just ordinary plants. But when you look closer, you can see there's more to it.

Beyond the mossy, aged fence there is a wild world of overgrown plants. Grass waiting to nourish animals, fallen trees like soldiers in a war – a war against grass, that is. Strong trees border the road, providing shelter from the outside world. But what lives here?

By the edge of the rushes, a dark, moist world lies. Dappled frogs croak. Dragonflies buzz, darting in and out of weedy skyscrapers. In the safe, warm tree hollows, woodlice scuttle, desperately trying to block out the noise of partying magpies. Worms fight against the sparrows, willing them to become vegetarians.

Despite the war and decay, life goes on. There and here.

