

Part B - Reflective and Explanation

Written By Scarlett Gibbs

Entry Piece Topic choice: Poem

Introduction: Hi! My name is Scarlett Gibbs and today the poem I have written is titled "The True Friend of Our Future" It is based around the false promise that lies within a hand-held device nowadays, and portrays nature as a quiet friend, simply waiting for the stewardship and promise humans made to God when he formed this earth.

My question: Why is it important for young people to reconnect with creation?

Laudato Si quote choice: *"Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded."*



The True Friend of Our Future

"Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded."

A child is cradling a glowing screen,
it's embrace is cold, dull and untrue.
It hums and scrolls, replacing green,
A shadow that consumes what life once knew.

Beyond the glass a friend still waits,
Mother nature silent, steadfast and tall.
The rivers murmur the trees look down, her stars ignite at heaven's gates,
It's presence is more welcoming, the greatest gift of all.

Creation does not seek for likes,
nor beg to trend, or fade away unseen.
It speaks in rivers, forests and hikes,
God's beautiful glimmering green scene.

Children demand the soft feel of dirt,
the laughter of rain, the soft kiss of moonlight in all it's mystery.
Yet screens are their teachers, whilst earth bears the scars,
of neglect passed down through history.

"Young people demand change" The message is clear,
how can we build a future bright,
if we ignore creation's shedding tears,
and shut out the excluded unseen from sight?

Let the children step forth and reclaim the day,
but how can we do this when we punish the earth?
To start we must leave false-lit friends in dull grey,
and open our hearts to our only true friend and prove our worth.



Reflection:

My poem, "The True Friend of Our Future," is inspired by the words of Pope Francis' teachings in Laudato Si. It states "young people demand change" and contrasts the false comfort of screens with the true friend of creation. It shows that we are obscuring our views with hand-held devices when we should be appreciative of the patience and beauty of creation as it waits for us. Like Psalm 19 reminds us, "the heavens declare the glory of God," Nature reveals God's presence and thus calls out to us to protect it as he wished would be done in the first place. My poem challenges us to step forward to reclaim our creation, and to rise to greater heights in God's image for the younger generation (Like me), who plead for their future to be bright, prosperous and more faithful.

Specifically I wrote this poem in the eyes of a child much like me, I notice that children much like myself have lately been given little guidance and advice to open our eyes to the true friend waiting outside, nature. I also wanted this poem to be a reminder to children, that nature is our friend and God is waiting for us with open arms. The message of Pope Francis' Laudato Si quote is clear, and I wanted this poem to be a constant reminder that his words need to be noticed even more. "Creation does not seek for likes" Symbolises the false, toxic promise in artificial technology adults aren't letting children see. So please, "Let the children step forth and reclaim the day." Listen to my poem and help me and younger voices live the life you know we need.

Explanation on 2025 college theme Hope:

Our 2025 college theme "Hope" ties in wonderfully with caring for creation and belief and hope for a few reasons. As a school we know for a fact that we are 100% hopeful for the success of St Columba's college and its students. Care for creation reflects this belief in a future where earth and all its creatures are valued, protected and restored. By actively looking after the environment, we show that we do not accept despair over the damage caused by human actions, but instead trust that positive change is possible.

Going further, as we know I have wanted to tie my poem in with caring for creation and building a better life, this links to hope in itself. My poem is written in the eyes of a child (myself) hoping for more people to help and step forward for our future. Young people have hope and faith in creation and pray that older generations will step forward and care for it in the image of God as influences for us all.

Thank you for reading!