

## **Youth Category**

### **Words**

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Words.  
What are they,  
If not symbols  
Arranged to sound  
And display  
In a certain way?

They vary.  
Different languages,  
And thus different symbols,  
Different melodies.  
As many as the stars?  
No, greater.  
As endless as the sea?  
No, broader.

Created by man.  
A form of communication  
Unseen in any other species.  
Emotion portrayed  
Through writing and speech,  
Rhythm and rhyme,  
Something converted to song.

So what is their significance?  
Their importance?  
Their purpose?  
Words, created by  
The only ones  
Who will ever  
Know them,  
And understand them.

Some words,  
When arranged on way,  
Make us joyful.  
Content words,  
Such as,  
"I love you."  
"You look nice."  
"You did well."

But other words,  
The dark words,  
Make us feel worthless,  
Disappointed,  
Upset.  
They drive some of us,  
The best of us,  
To extreme measures,  
Even to take  
Our own lives.

These words,  
More like venom,  
Meant to hurt  
Even kill.  
The dark words.  
"You don't matter."  
"I hate you."  
"You don't deserve it."  
"Just die."

The power of words,  
Is greater than anything,  
Existing or not,  
In this world.  
A few short words,  
Harmless, they seem,  
But they linger  
In the minds of those who are spoken to.

Words.  
What are they,  
If not weapons  
Born to destroy,  
Or convey a message,  
Even bring peace,  
In the right or wrong hands?