

**Poetry Writing Competition for 8-11s**

**judged by the author Mavis Cheek**

**Highly Commended:**

**Noah Kinderman, Woodborough Primary School– Leopard**

Noah has summonsed up the strength of the leopard in a poem of very short, sharp lines with strong adjectives - ‘fiery eyes’ and ‘muscles like iron’ - and he takes us on a journey with the leopard who is looking for, and finds, his prey. It’s a brilliant idea and Noah does not flinch from the ‘claws tearing’ and ‘devouring’ at the end. I liked it very much. He has written the essence of the animal and it is very well observed.

**Grace Garner, Woodborough Primary School – Elephant. Elephant**

In this poem, Grace has tackled the issue of elephant poaching – and she uses the refrain ‘elephant, elephant standing peacefully’ to contrast the gentleness of the creatures with the brutality that is to come. It’s a sad, beautifully elegiac piece of writing, with a nicely paced, slow rhythm that echoes the peacefulness of the elephants as they stand ‘watching the world go by, protecting their young’ – only to end with the poachers ‘taking their tusks, leaving them to die.’ They will become extinct so that ‘all that’s left of them is a footprint…’ It isn’t easy to write a poem with a punch – but Grace has done it compellingly.

**MLF Competitions: Davina Jones 07710 306174**

**Illustration Competition**

**judged by the artist Fenella Elms**

**Highly Commended:**

**Tabitha Reeve: Best picture by a 5 year old**

**Amelie Tilbury: Best Illustration**