

Category 3: Secondary 4 to Secondary 6

Winner

The Leftovers of War

The crack of bullets
Ripping off flesh and bone
Throwing to the ground
The leftovers of war.

The tear of the paper
Spilling words of pain
Falling to the floor
The widows of war.

The silence of the guns
Tears of patience and relief
Releasing them back home
The survivors of war.

*Heather Smith
S6 Duncannig Secondary School, East Kilbride*



Commended

What is a Veteran?

Black, yellow, white, regimented and ruled,
organised in lines, like a close-knit loom,
soar, duck, dive throughout mists of time
dodging a blizzard of bullets, all the way behind,
night or day,
sun or rain,
it is my duty to protect my country for all of mankind,
beautiful and haunting birds light up like fireworks in the midnight sky,
and plummet down below, where the earth is dry,
suddenly, I am too, soaring down, and die,
no, not die, for it is not yet my time,
and stepping out onto home soil for the first time, I shake,
this is what it means to be a veteran,
and my battle is only just begun,

Kelly-Louise Gair
S5/6, Inverness Royal Academy



