

## 2023 Winning Youth Poems

### Manifesting of Destiny

Peace  
With nature  
With ourselves  
With strangers  
Until they arrived  
Fierce and silent  
as winter's first snow  
Light colored people with hair the color of straw  
Came without warning, without reason  
And stole  
Our homes  
Fear, fear ruled the day  
The chief declared  
Listen for the drums  
For they mean you are home.

- *Avyakta Kanthes, age 14*

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### Listening

Drums a heartbeat of the soul  
I hear them, pulsing through my ears  
Following the tempo of our ancestors before us  
*Ba-dum dum dum ba-dum*

More people joining, more colors everywhere  
We dance, and sing, and laugh  
The beat of the music vibrating through the ground  
*Ba-dum dum dum Ba-dum*

Tempo rising, feet faster  
We end with a kick and say our goodbyes  
Listening for the drums again

- *Pia Nathani, age 12*