

**Honorable Mention, Poetry**  
**Grades 7-9**

***“The World Around Us,” Juliana Lewandowski***

Once a long time ago  
People walked the streets to and fro  
There were parties and gatherings galore  
But one cough changed the world for sure  
For the worse, this is the world around us

One cough is destroying our lives as we speak  
One cough storms around looking for the next victim to seek  
One cough puts our lives on delay  
This is the world around us every day

Instead of seeing others  
We can only see our mothers  
Instead of going to school  
E-learning is now the new rule

Isolated  
Agitated  
Stuck inside for what seems like forever  
It seems like we will never  
Come out of this place  
The disgrace  
The thing that is now changing  
The world around us

Though some people are staying home,  
Others go outside and roam,  
Infecting others in every way  
Every day  
More lives are at stake  
I need a break  
Will this ever end?

One cough is destroying our lives as we speak  
One cough storms around looking for the next victim to seek  
One cough puts our lives on delay

This is the world around us every day

In California, coughs are crackling creating conundrums left and right

In Seattle, sneezing stops safety people are coughing every night

This is a mess

I have to confess

This is overwhelmingly chaotic

But if we can learn from our challenges and the virus itself, we might come up with an antibiotic

To save lives and protect our community

It just takes you, to step it up, to create new opportunities

Such as immunity

And unity

This isn't the flu

But it's up to you

To help stop this virus

You need to be desirous

This is a time to be caring

But we don't want to be sharing

This road block in the way

One cough is destroying our lives as we speak

One cough storms around looking for the next victim to seek

One cough puts our lives on delay

This is the world around us every day

You can do it

Our lives can get back to normal, if you act with grit

Soon the birds will sing

Doorbells will ring

Peace will be restored

You will worry no more

You can repair the world around us

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