

COBIS Poetry Competition 2023/24

A Future to Be Proud Of

Key Stage 4-5 Winner

A Future To Be Proud Of

Harnessed to a gilt-edged carriage,
The gracious, white horse trots compliantly,
Despite its lameness, its cargo steering,
Persevering, self-reliantly.
A beast of burden, with purpose replete,
Hauling its passengers along wet, cobbled streets,
Weighed down by the heavy load of Painful Past,
Buckling under bundles of memories amassed.

In its rich, plush-velvet interior,
The carriage holds the Present too,
With his mind of curiosity and countenance of youth,
And I, his loyal, trusty steed, clip-clop along life's road,
Bearing his jewels of aspirations, to a future treasure trove.
We cross paths with others along the way,
Some carriages, worn-out, rusty,
As we weave around blockages, twists and bends,
On thoroughfares, unmarked, dusty.

We pick up Drive and Self-Belief,
And with Diligence form quite a crowd,
And assure Painful Past when he offers to leave,
That to know him we are proud.
Over a steep hill, we reach a gate,
It reads, "the future lies ahead",
Over marshy moors and mountain peaks,
And sunken valleys, red.

For a future to be proud of, is a never-ending striving,
Trotting, sprinting, galloping to where I am arriving,
In my carriage, pristine pearls of love, family, friends,
And departed souls, heaven-sent,
Guiding round each bend.
A firm intent to shape my life with decisions that I make,
Rather than be saddled by those I failed to take,
Taking a firm rein of my perfect imperfections,
Face-forward, cantering proudly to my future directions.

Vera Lukash (aged 14)
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