

1st Place - Senior

I am a Feminist

Tattooed in my heart
And inked on my skin
Is the joy of being a woman
And the pain it can bring

My bones are chipped
From the insults I have heard
My nails are polished
To fit in with the absurd

The absurd of me being weak
And forgotten by evolution
I am not equal
That was their solution

In the curve of my eyes
Hides undeserved guilt
That I'm not good enough
For the way the world is built

My body has become the portrait
Of the faceless girls before
Who were shamed and slandered
For everything that they wore

My smile is widening
As more women speak out
On abuse and harassment
Erasing their doubt

I'm standing up taller
At the women winning gold
In sports and literature
We are breaking the mould

My arms sweep up
In sweet celebrations
Of women in science
Making ground-breaking revelations

My heart beats with joy
As women reach their potential
Getting degrees, freedom
And being amazingly influential

I am a feminist
For the purpose of future humanity
So when I say I'm a woman
It isn't such a profanity

Ruth Guildea
Loreto Balbriggan Secondary School
Balbriggan
Co. Dublin