

Junior Division, Prose (15 years & under)

Charlotte Fowler, St. John's

**Facing the Darkness (an excerpt)**

I could feel the hair on the back of my neck rise. Every single instinct I had was screaming at me to run. I closed my eyes and swallowed, fighting that instinct. With the last bit of courage I could muster, I turned around and faced the creature again.

“I don't want to spend the rest of my life hiding! You have made every moment, every memory I have miserable. There has not been one second of my life that I haven't been scared. Waiting and praying that you wouldn't show up, that by some miracle you have finally found someone else to torture. No, because that would be too easy wouldn't it?” The monsters expression seemed to be distorting. “You win, you always win. Now it's my turn.” The eyes stare at me, and then vanish. Then I was alone.