

2015MCC Creative Writing Contest

PoetryCategory

SecondPlace:“

Is this one superior enough for the bottom half of the upper level?

Maybe it's slightly inferior and should be on the top half of the lower level

She waits for someone to come tell her

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

This poem has echoes in it of Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" from *The Republic*, with its exploration of how our perspectives are limited. Here, the images are of people put in different categories. I appreciate the writer taking the perspective of a child who is almost there but not quite. The passivity in the last line is powerful: "She waits for someone to come tell her." Overall, I'd like more "showing" the people in the other categories also children?

Catherine Frerichs is retired after many years of teaching writing, literature, and other humanities courses at Glen Oaks Community College, Albion College, and, most recently, Grand Valley State University. She is the author of *Desires of the Heart: A Daughter Remembers Her Missionary Parents* (Cold River Studio, 2010), in which she uses her parents' letters, journals, and other research to write about her parents' 40 years of working in Papua New Guinea and the costs to their children. Currently, she is working on a book that explores her relationship with her Sudanese children whom she fosterparented for seven years and who have remained her children.