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## Hong Kong student named Runner-Up in world's oldest and largest essay competition

Nine year old Catherine Yu, a student at Think International School in Hong Kong, has been named the Junior Runner-Up in the Royal Commonwealth Society's 2013 Commonwealth Essay Competition.

Catherine's winning entry, entitled *The Clothes of Sleeping Giant Mountain*, was chosen by a panel of Commonwealth judges from more than 6,500 Junior entries.

Writing on the topic 'Is change a good thing?', Catherine took a creative approach to the competition. Using nature to examine the concept of change, Catherine imagined herself to be Sleeping Giant Mountain and her clothes to be the seasons; taking the reader on a journey through winter, spring, summer and autumn.

**The judging panel said:** *"Catherine's entry is an extraordinary approach to the topic "Is change a good thing?" which satisfyingly turns full circle in its description of a mountain and the changing seasons. The writing is creative, authentic, poetic, imaginative and witty. The style is concise and sophisticated. It demonstrates emotional depth and attention to texture. The descriptions are excellent. The end result is to leave the reader feeling satisfied and uplifted."*

As the Junior Runner-Up, Catherine will be invited to attend a special award ceremony at the RCS Hong Kong branch.

The Essay Competition was founded in 1883 and is the world's oldest and largest international schools' writing contest. For 2013 the competition was sponsored by Cambridge University Press and more than 11,000 entries from over 830 schools in 55 Commonwealth countries and territories were received across the Junior and Senior categories – a record for the competition.

**Mike Lake, Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society said:** *"As the Commonwealth Essay Competition celebrates its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary I am delighted that the contest remains an important outlet for expression in the association. Having received a record number of entries this year, it is fantastic to see so many talented and bright young Commonwealth citizens expressing their opinions and engaging in the international community. I am grateful to our sponsors, Cambridge University Press, and to the participants for helping to make the contest the vibrant and exciting competition that it is today."*

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### Notes to Editors

**Senior Prize winner:** *"To boldy go": a letter to the lost girls*, Katherine McIndoe, New Zealand, age 19

[http://www.thercs.org/youth/Filestore/Competitions\\_2013/Senior\\_Winner\\_2013\\_Essay.pdf](http://www.thercs.org/youth/Filestore/Competitions_2013/Senior_Winner_2013_Essay.pdf)

**Senior Runner up:** *The little girl in me*, Abby Wells, Canada, age 16  
[http://www.thercs.org/youth/Filestore/Competitions\\_2013/Senior Runner-Up\\_2013\\_Essay.pdf](http://www.thercs.org/youth/Filestore/Competitions_2013/Senior_Runner-Up_2013_Essay.pdf)

**Junior Prize winner:** *Is change a good thing*, Tabitha Carr, Guernsey, age 13  
[http://www.thercs.org/youth/Filestore/Competitions\\_2013/Junior Winner\\_2013\\_Essay.pdf](http://www.thercs.org/youth/Filestore/Competitions_2013/Junior_Winner_2013_Essay.pdf)

**Junior Runner up:** *The clothes of sleeping giant mountain*, Catherine Yu, Hong Kong, age 9  
[http://www.thercs.org/youth/Filestore/Competitions\\_2013/Junior Runner-Up\\_2013\\_Essay.pdf](http://www.thercs.org/youth/Filestore/Competitions_2013/Junior_Runner-Up_2013_Essay.pdf)

**The Royal Commonwealth Society** is the oldest and largest civil society organisation devoted to the Commonwealth. Founded in 1868, it conducts a range of events, research and activities aimed at promoting international understanding. The RCS has a global membership and a presence in over 40 Commonwealth countries through a network of branches and Commonwealth societies. The RCS is a registered charity in England and Wales. (226748). [www.thercs.org](http://www.thercs.org)

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