

Hornsby Girls' High School, 2013
with poet Eileen Chong
Response Poems from Class 7Q



in response to Johannes Vermeer's 'Girl with a Pearl Earring'

by Millie

I have to run.
I can not run
with mother's pearl earrings
and
father's jacket.
I have to say
goodbye.

The soldier stands
tall, silent
over me
and
with a wave of his hand
I am pulled
away.

Of course I'm alone
surrounded by others
but alone
and
I may not see them again,
but I stay strong
for war is raging.

by Oindrila

she looks back
as if searching for hope
but she turns
and heads into the darkness
that swallows her up.
she's gone.

by Katrina

My fellow colleague, a betrayer;
wanting to boost my reputation,
but did I want it? No, I
had earned this by being earnest,
yet I had to. It was a once in
a lifetime opportunity.
Tears rushing down my
face, I continue to make
my future with hesitance.

by Arushi

Longing, hesitant, and then
Trying, stopping, unsure
As the memories cascade
Down, tumbling, fumbling
Like the scarf upon her head.

by Lauren

Her steps hesitant
Reluctant to go
A sob bubbling up
In her throat
Where is happiness now?

by Caitlin

She is afraid
afraid of what is coming
afraid of what is gone
afraid of the answer
afraid of finding out

by Rithika

She looks behind
with a tentative look
Nothing binds her
to this place

by Nashita

Forlorn longing shone in her eyes.
He'd finally leave this life of lies.
then why do they
haunt – those incessant cries.

by Jenny

She looks back,
her expression displays:
reluctance, expectance and hesitance.

She lets me in,
waves of emotion surge:
helplessness, loneliness and finality

Goodbye
she whispers

by Andria

Tired eyes cry,
Pleading:
“Don’t make me go.”
“I beg you.”
But she had to.
I had to
Let her go.
Her earring fatened,
The only possession
She treasured.
I’ll treasure
This one last look
As she enters the dark
Forever.

by Shelyne

The girl with the pearl earring,
from the turban, to her
brown, tattered jacket and
pearl earring, she was no
ordinary person.

by Hashini

Heading towards darkness
Grief and fear
Suffering loss and being broken
Yet the only thing that shines
Are these silver pearl earrings.

by Olivia

Her pearl earrings gleam in the
darkness.
Her eyes: hopeful, wistful, lonely.
Her clothes are ill-fitting; they
hide her identity.
Her rosy lips are parted; goodbye
they are saying.

by Christine

I gaze through the
open window, watching
the painter carefully
depicting the young
girl’s features onto an
empty canvas.
The girl looked sad, forlorn,
with a wistful atmosphere.

by Zoe

She looked back
Her eyes showed grief
The pearl glistened in the dark
She wanted to leave

by Rebecca

It was the last,
The last time, now
She would be
Gone, forever
I cried for her
as she entered the darkness

by Michelle

Drifting to the darkness
of the tunnel.
A little pearl brought back the
light.
Moving closer, step by
step.
A girl in rags begins to appear with the shine
of the light of the pearl.

by Joanne

She glances behind
With her weak eyes
Heartbroken
And heading to darkness.

by Olivia

Soulful eyes longing,
Desiring,
As if watching a ghost.
A memory of what could have been.

by Victoria

Staring into emptiness,
she wonders. What
will happen to her
when she
leaves her family. Leaving
behind her hope,
she walks to the darkness, taking
only her pearl earring.

by Josie

She turns her back
against the looming
darkness,
and looks towards
the light,
something she would
never see again,
feel again,
and it shines for the last time on her,
her image soaking up all the memories.

by Leanne

My mouth is rigid
They cannot move
Still/ lifeless, posing for
the painting
Discomfort shows on my
face
They do not notice
They don't care
The hours of standing still
The burden strains my back

by Unknown

The remorse in her face,
grief in her eyes,
are no match to the
glinting pearl and
lush fabric; the head
gear waiting to be
draped over her face, somewhat seems to
add an air of mystery to her
striking appearance; in the alleyway of
darkness, she brings brightness of
wealth and status.

by Devika

With her sombre eyes,
In co-ordinance with her
Sad face,
She is leaving
Nothing but
Her homeland and
Belongings
Her old world
Disappearing away
To the new world that lies ahead of her.

by Victoria

Her eyes spoke sorrow
Her body is the light from
Heaven to land
Like a pearl shining in darkness
Looking back with regret
What happened

by Daniella

Changed
It has been a decade
Her pearl sparkles
Yet the face looks in despair
How...

then she leaves

by Masha

She started to walk away
I called her name, and she turned
There was pain in her eyes
She didn't want to go
She whispered 'goodbye'
And trailed into the darkness

by Keerthi

This coat,
The headscarf,
The pearl earring,
I just felt like chucking it
back at my fake parents
And going back to the life I treasured,
Where I was left alone.

by Tania

She appeared out of nowhere,
her earring glinting in the darkness.
She seemed lost and confused.

by Anusha

Her eyes linger hesitantly,
challenging her decision
should she go or should she stay?
the girl with the pearl earring