



Poetry Contest on a “Sense of Place” 2025

Winner: *Poem (untitled)* by Simon Schmidt (Germany)

The cosmos, and outer space,
undoubtedly an exciting place.

So beautiful and terrible,
nothing is comparable.

It awakes in us a burning fire,
to explore, is our desire.

Distant worlds and distant stars,
waiting for us to make them ours.

Gaze at the stars and be aghast,
and see that space is truly vast,
for even light, though incredibly fast,
shows all you can see years in the past.

We have to accept, no matter how crushing
the universe is made of mostly nothing.

And even if we matched lights speed,
an effort in which we cannot succeed,
still anyone who wished to roam,
could never hope returning home.

The cosmos, and outer space,
undoubtedly a tempting place.

Vast and empty, cold and dark,
yet there is still that little spark.

It still burns with fascination,
cant worry about transportation.

We'll make it work, we always do,
it'll be hard, but worth the view.

We'll see planets burning forever,
acid rain and toxic weather.



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We'll see stars explode so incredibly bright,
it tears spacetime with its might
and leaves a scar darker than night,
where nothing escapes, not even light.
We'll see mostly things we can't endure,
if we tried, we'd perish for sure.
No matter how much we prepare,
the universe just doesn't care.

The cosmos and outer space,
undoubtedly a dreadful place.
Vast end empty, unforgiving,
no place for anyone still living.
Death and darkness everywhere,
it seems incredibly unfair.
Stuck on Earth, forever tapped,
where everything already mapped.
Our universe, beautiful and bizarre,
we'll only explore it from afar,
only witness our own star,
no matter how smart or clever we are.
Yet in spite of this damning promise,
there's still one thing to give us solace.
For earth, though fragile, and rather small,
is the most beautiful of them all.

Not the cosmos nor outer space,
our own Earth, is my favorite place.
Bright and Warm, green and blue.
A rainbow casts a beautiful hue.
Earth's beauty is second to none.
A moon that perfectly covers the sun.
Canyons, carved by water in lime.



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Mountains standing the test of time.
The sight of stars, the sound of thunder,
this planet is truly full of wonder.
All grains of sand that storms have blow,
every tree and every stone,
every seed was ever sewn,
it's more fragile, than we've ever known.
Earth in its magnificent beauty,
has tasked us, with the most important duty.
To protect, preserve and understand,
its animals and plants, mountains and sand.

This is an ode to outer space,
an ode to my favorite place,
an ode to the human race,
and an ode to all we're yet to face.