

I painted peace

This poem was written by Tali Sorek, an Israeli girl of 13 years old. She won a prize and she became very famous all over the world.

Using simple images, Tali makes us think about the real meaning of the word peace especially in an area like Middle East, theatre of many terrible wars.

This poem wants to be a denunciation of war and a hymn to peace.

I had a box of paints
brilliant, intense, bright
I had a box of paints
some warm, others very cold
I hadn't red for the blood of the wounded
I hadn't black for the tears of the orphans
I hadn't white for the hands and the face of the dying
I hadn't yellow for the burning sands
But I had orange for the joy of life
and green for shoots and nests
and blue for bright shining skies
and pink for dreams and rest.
So, I sat down and I painted peace

Tali Sorek

Ho dipinto la pace
Avevo una scatola di colori brillanti, decisi, vivi.
Avevo una scatola di colori, alcuni caldi, altri molto freddi.
Non avevo il rosso per il sangue dei feriti.
Non avevo il nero per il pianto degli orfani.
Non avevo il bianco per le mani e il volto dei morti.
Non avevo il giallo per la sabbia ardente,
ma avevo l'arancio per la gioia della vita,
e il verde per i germogli e i nidi,
e il celeste dei chiari cieli splendenti,
e il rosa per i sogni e il riposo.
Allora mi sono seduta e ho dipinto la pace.

I PAINTED PEACE

- 1. Who is the writer of this poem?** The writer is Tali Sorek, a girl of 13 years old
- 2. Where does she live?** She lives in Israel, in the Middle East.
- 3. Why does she write this poem?** Because she wants to condemn the war
- 4. What does this poem represent?** It wants to be a denunciation of the war and a hymn to peace.
- 5. What does the writer use in this poem?** She uses simple images and colours
- 6. What are the colours of the war?** The colours of the war are red, black, white and yellow
- 7. What are the colours of the peace?** They are orange, green, blue and pink