The standard was so high this year that I had a real challenge in selecting the winner. The first four were all very close and illustrated a huge diversity in style and content but all showed a confident approach to their subject matter. On the whole the stories were extremely imaginative even though the theme of death and destruction shows no sign of abatement! Image 3 in particular seem to inspire a huge range of stories and I loved "The Disturbed" with its Roald Dahl-like twist in the tail, but in the end went with "Little Owl" as the winner of this image as it showed a maturity in handling a difficult topical issue. "The Fair" was very entertaining and well written and very nearly won, but I went for a piece that really epitomised the genre of flash fiction - "In the Moonlight" which any adult would have been proud of writing - it was succinct, tense and tight and had quite beautiful prose that conjured up the image that the writer has chosen - and to great effect. As I say - it was a very difficult choice - but all the writers should be really pleased with their work - it was a pleasure to judge them.

Caroline Clough