



THE QUEEN'S  
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2019

Junior Runner-up: Elise Jensen, 12, Ghana.

## A place you feel connected to.

Places are all different.  
Some places are nice and some places are not,  
Some places are cold and some places are hot  
Some places look fab some places bad,  
Some places are high and some places are low,  
Some places are dark some places have glow,  
But you will never find my ideal place if you look outside Ghana.

Ghana is a place I feel connected to.  
It is where I would want to spend the rest of my days in,  
Playing in the beach waters,  
the warm sun shining on my face,  
While the cold water splashes on my body,  
Drinking refreshing coconut juice,  
Building sand castles.

Culture and tradition are the best things about Ghana.  
The talking drums,  
The Kente cloth wrapped around you,  
The spicy Shito and Ga kenke with tilapia,  
The statues of Kwame Nkrumah

Ever since we gained our independence we have been proud.  
Happy,  
Well mannered,  
Noble citizens,  
I am proud of my homeland;  
My mother land,  
Ghana

When the days are hot  
All I can do is sit under a mango tree,  
drinking cold sobolo  
whilst listening to Ghanaian music  
Playing board games  
Listening to stories

Go to the market sometime.  
Listen to the different languages,  
Smell the Smokey fish and sweet smelling onions  
Taste the warm "bofloat" you buy,

Experience what it feels like in Makola market

Next take a trip to Kwame Nkrumah memorial park.  
He was our first president.  
The one who led us out of bondage  
When you are in the park feel the fight.  
Feel the struggle  
The lives lost  
Just for our independence

The colour we wear  
Soft silky scarfs tied to our heads,  
Beautiful beads cascades down my neck,  
Added to it gold jewelry shining in the sun  
kente regally clothed our bodies  
Decorated slippers holding our feet  
Now we walk in slow majestic steps

With our kente we go to festivals  
Festivals with dancing  
Festivals with delicious food  
Odwira, Homowo, Hogbetsotso, Damba  
All these festivals  
Celebrated for different reasons  
Each having a significant meaning

Ghana is filled with open hearts  
Every where you go  
Smiles and hearts  
Warm beautiful Hearts  
Smiling at you

All foreigners are welcome  
They are our morning dew

Who would have thought  
In Ghana.  
Unlike a lot of countries  
Women are respected  
Queen mothers ; ahead of the chief  
It puts a warm smile on my face  
And brightens my gaze

Food is what we need everyday  
Here in Ghana food,  
Well let's just say it's scrumptious  
Not only is it healthy,  
It's also delicious  
From kenke, to banku and okro stew, fufu and light soup and many more,  
Our dishes fill the hungriest of tummies

Ghana, Ghana  
I break down when I am not with you  
I have anxiety when stomachaches happen in your body  
I want to keep you safe  
I will keep you safe  
Just like Kwame Nkrumah said: We face neither east nor north: we face forward  
Ghana I am connected to you indeed.