## 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Zakawaan Al-Jabir, New Directions

Peace is important to me because it is the key to true happiness. Peace is important to me because it brings everyone together.

Peace must start from within. To achieve peace in the community, nation, or the world you must first achieve self-peace. Peace can be many things, it can be love, affection, kindness, warm heartedness, being good natured, calm, solitude, quietness.

Peace is what we dream about in times of trouble.

Peace is what MLK fought for.

Peace is what keeps our kids safe.

Peace is dragged down by fear hatred and anger.

Peace is nurtured when you are joyful and happy.

Peace is to live without fear, fear of someone hurting you or killing you.

Peace is a home where there is laughter.

Peace is being accepted for who you are.

Peace is something the world should strive to achieve.

Peace is the idea that gives the world hope for the future.

If the world was at peace, women could walk the streets at night without fear.

If the world was at peace, people wouldn't get scared seeing people wearing turbans or hijabs.

If the world was at peace, we wouldn't wake up every morning to a mass shooting on the news.

If the world was at peace, we wouldn't wake up to headlines about war and terrorism.

If the world was at peace, people wouldn't judge other people by the color of their skin.

Peace is important, because as Dr. King showed the world, peace is an ideal that is also a powerful force for change.