

Statement from the Undergraduate Research Task Force:

The following is a summary of a paper written by SUNY Orange student, Esther Stephen. Esther was truly looking forward to presenting at the 2021 SOARS Conference. However, due to extenuating circumstances she is unable to share her work in person. Her enthusiasm for learning and for the SOARS Conference are being recognized via the posting of this summary.

Summary of *Nature's Power Over Man*

Based on the original paper submitted by Esther Stephen to the 2021 SOARS Conference

"Are humans capable of ruling the forces of Nature, or does Nature have the power to dominate them?" Through her analysis of "The Open Boat" by Stephen Crane, Ms. Stephen is able to articulate a path toward answering this profoundly philosophical question. She opens with the statement, *"Stephen Crane's story does prove a fact that is very true: although Nature does not have the capacity to determine what she wants to do, she does have the power to randomly change men's circumstances- for the better or for the worse."* Throughout the analysis Ms. Stephen provides examples of the randomness of nature, which sometimes acts in ways advantageous to the protagonist and other times detrimentally, including events that lead to the death of a man. The analysis supports the conclusion that nature unknowingly determines the fate of man. Her conclusion is summarized in this quote, *"And although Nature lacks the knowledge to make her own choices and to be aware of what she is doing, she possesses power over the events in the lives of men. In this case, the unintelligent one (Nature) has more authority than the intelligent one (man). Her actions are the verdict, not man's desires or choices. Therefore, through Stephen Crane's story, "The Open Boat", Nature has proven herself to be the greatest and most powerful person on planet earth."*