

Adyson Erzurum

Hudson Middle School, Spoken Word

Video can be found online at www2.akronohio.gov/holocaust/2019 winning entries

It Started With Words

Transcript:

It Started With Words

The world, the people, nothing had changed

The sky was still blue, the ocean like fall,

People still laughed and walked as it rained,

But soon would come, the biggest storm of all,

Nothing would compare to the Holocaust,

Nazis invading streets, invading homes,

The horror, the pain, when loved ones were lost,

Off to the ghettos, and off to the camps,

Off to the grave, with nothing left to gain

Except the sight of death, the sound of screams,

Endless begging and pleading, all in vain,

The smell of smoke, the taste of ichor,

Oh, when would I awake from this nightmare?

It all started with words, twisted and turned,

Innocent people to monsters; horrors,

More and more, words and words made the hate form,

"Zydzi wszy, tyfus plamisty" they say,

Scaring the Jews, deceiving the public,

The man behind it all needed support,
Everyone seemed to be drinking the toxic,

The words grew like a fungus, no mercy
All the words led to discrimination,
Discrimination led to violence
Violence led to death and destruction,
What did we do to deserve this terror?
Fingers like icicles, pins and needles
Once, comfortable and cozy at home,
Now, cold and claustrophobic in a cell.
Everyday is a cruel mystery,
Who will die today? Who will carry on?
Sometimes, we wished and hoped with all our hearts,
That we could join those that were already gone.
Maybe then we could escape this torture,
And finally see the ones we have lost.
I could feel the touch of my mother's hand,
See her warm smile, and her expression soft,
Then I come on back to reality,
I ponder about all that has happened,
And remember it all started with words

Citations:

“Deceiving the Public The Holocaust.” *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, United States

Holocaust Memorial Museum, encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/deceiving-the-public.

Artist Statement:

It Started With Words

My project is a video using movements and actions along with a spoken poem called, “It Started with Words”. The poem includes imagery and figurative language to tell the horrifying story of the Holocaust and how it started with words. I hope you enjoy!