

Honorable Mention
Fiction Writing, Division I
By Lilah Walker, Grade 7
Copley-Fairlawn Middle School
Jennifer Adair, Instructor
The Fire I See
Word Count: 344

The Fire I See

Wir sind das Heer vom Hakenkreuz,

Hebt hoch die roten Fahnen!

Der deutschen Arbeit wollen wir,

Den Weg zur Freiheit bahnen!

The flames of the fire I see

I peered through the window after hearing the soldiers procession

Echoes of the vicious song replays in my head as I see them raising the red flags

with globes of fire held from their hands

They told my people we'd all be damned

In the flames of the fire I see

My feelings are up in flames

Paps had been taken away

Taken to Sachsenhausen concentration camp

likely brutally murdered by the Nazis

Feeling violated and mortified by all people

I'll burn up the words "*Heil Hitler*"

In the flames of the fire I see

The Schäfer family is taking care of Matti and me

Most of our time barricaded by stone walls with a glass window

The smell of smoke from torches being held high by thousands of soldiers

Looking expressionless. Emotionless.

Holding the flames of the fire I see

Questions ignite fires in my head

How many families are waiting for their paps to come home?

Do they know how they make others suffer?

Hast du sie nicht mehr alle?

Others burning in the fire I see

The fire burned with fury

The flickering torch lights of my synagogue up in flames

A glimpse of disdain

Right before my eyes

Matti said we'll stop living in fear someday

But the swastika tells me otherwise

Scorching my soul

Trapped in the fire I see

The flames of the fire are now burning out

A knock on the door at dawn

They are here to take Matti and me

Maybe Paps will be there at Sachsenhausen

All of us burning in the flames of the fire

Seeing the light for the first time

Dying in the flames of the fire I see

May the roaring fires flames burn out

Let the Star of David be worn freely

Ensure peace and security for all families

And see the hope in the light of the fire I see.

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