

# Second Place Division I – Writing

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*Honoring Those Who Are Forgotten*

Copley-Fairlawn Middle School

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## Honoring Those Who Are Forgotten

The past is locked up far away  
Farther than anyone can reach  
Farther than anyone can fathom the extent of  
But it is our job to reveal the past  
To honor those who are forgotten  
To honor those who didn't get a funeral  
Those who were buried in mass graves instead of their own  
Those who experienced prejudice for being who they were  
Those who were blamed for every terrible thing that happened in Germany  
Those who were seen as an inferior race because they didn't meet the standards of others  
Those who had laws made against them simply because they were different  
And those who died only remembering the pain and suffering they experienced

I want to honor those who never got to tell their side of the story  
Those who had to whisper behind closed doors rather than express their opinions and feelings..... truly and freely  
Those who were SNATCHED from their families  
Those whose lives changed and nothing was ever quite.... the same  
The little children and teenagers who were forced to grow up faster than anyone should ever have to  
Those who were surrounded by a world full of hatred, constantly consuming them  
Those who were BEATEN, and BEaten, and beaten until they were nothing but a broken mess  
Those who were surrounded by barbed wire, without knowing if they would be free again  
Those who had to change their identity to meet Hitler's standards  
Those who went into hiding, living every day of their lives in fear  
Those whose lives changed when Hitler and the Nazis came up with the "Final Solution" at the Wannsee Conference  
Those who were told that they were going to take a shower but they never saw the light of day again  
Those who were deported in large cattle trucks that died because of suffocation and lack of food and water  
But somehow found hope in these situations

They tried to find the light in the dark  
They tried to see the bright light at the end of the long, dark tunnel  
This is why it is our job to honor those who are forgotten and let them know that we still remember  
We can honor them by showing people love  
By standing up for what is right

By speaking their truth since they couldn't speak it for themselves  
By learning what they went through  
By standing up against those who deny the Holocaust and act like it never happened  
By not being afraid to state our opinions  
By finding love and empathy within ourselves  
By teaching others how to love and have empathy for them  
And by not letting the discrimination that they received in the past engulf anyone else  
Taking these actions unlocks small parts of the past that are covered up and hidden far away  
Parts of the past that many can't even understand  
Taking part in any of these actions, no matter how small, is slowly changing the world  
Slowly our words and actions can help to tell their story  
In the end....  
It all comes back to honoring those who are forgotten

#### Works Cited

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