

Honorable Mention

Division I – Writing

Nicholas Hewit, Grade 7

A Changing Routine

Copley-Fairlawn Middle School

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Word Count 790

A Changing Routine

1933

I know this will be another carefree day
With school and fun and home
And all over again the next day
Eat, learn, play, eat, sleep
The repetitive routine everyone knows

1934

Mama said we had to hide today
I was scared
Papa is gone and when I ask why,
I received no answer
She says people are coming for us
That we must hide until they are not
I know the next days will be stressful
But surely it can't last for too long
I watch the friends I used to know
Have fun without me
Do the routine I used to know
Eat, learn, play, eat, sleep
Contrasting with what we have now
Eat, hide, sleep
The routine we know and share with only a few others

1935

I finally received the answer I've been looking for
Mama says I'm old enough to know
Even though I think I already know the answer
When I ask, she says,
"He was taken away to a camp,
"He could be dead."
Tears ran down freely on both our faces
Me knowing my fears could come true
Her having to admit it
That night I had nightmares

1940

I watch as the routine changes
For everyone I used to know
And now can not for me
Since I am a Jew
They have opportunities for whatever they want

All I have before me
Is a life of nothingness
Hiding away and waiting
For the routine to change
The nightmares continue
One day the routine had “run” in it
That was the worst day
We are getting weaker
I can tell
We might not be able to make it much longer
While everyone else had the same easy
Eat, learn, study, sleep
We had
Eat, run, hide, sleep
The urge to go out grows larger each day
I want to do things in life
But my thoughts stop me as I realize
I am a Jew
No one will accept me
For what I am
Not who I am

1944

They say the war is over
That the Allies have won
I’m not sure if I believe it
But I’m sure I want to

Today we heard
On a radio from a house nearby
That the war was over
We could finally come out
But when we did
All of the people
They still did not respect us
I saw the friends I used to know
And tried to go join them
But they pretended I wasn’t there
No one I used to know
Even tried or wanted to know me again
The next day I attempted to go to school
To try and learn all that I missed
When I arrived there
I was turned away

Because I was too old and a Jew
But I was prepared
All of my hatred and sadness boiling
And creating a dull froth in my mind
I told the teacher,
“I should not be shunned
Just because I am a Jew!
I should not be turned away
Just because of a war!
If you insist
On not paying attention to me,
Don’t, but I’m staying.”
And I sat down
The teacher was taken aback
And she was angry
But I was right
And she couldn’t do anything
I felt so much more confident
Now that I was safe
And I was finally able to speak for myself
The next day I was at school, and a soldier walked in
He took one look at the class
With me at the back
And said, “Perfect”
Because I was there
I was delighted with what I had done
The others might not like me
But at least I am learning
But after school
The soldier was still there
And he asked me,
“Why are you not with them?”
In a crisp accent
He was looking at my old friends
I told him how they did not take notice of me
And he told me to go over there
And make them take notice
And so I did
And they still ignored me
But the soldier came over
Waved me away
And spoke with them in quiet tones
They nodded
And I could not make out the words

But after that
I was included
And it felt like before
The times I used to know
And even better,
When I arrived at home
Papa was waiting at the door
I was overjoyed to see him
He smiled at me and I knew
The routine was back.
Eat, Learn, Play, Eat, Sleep
We made it

1950
I know this will be another carefree day
With work and family and fun
And all over again the next day
Eat, work, home, family, sleep
The repetitive routine everyone knows.

Works Cited

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