

Third Place

Division I – Writing

Malory Beskid, Grade 8

Revere Middle School

Enough For One More Day

Word Count 328

Enough For One More Day

I was small, dry and rough around the edges, but to them, I was everything. I rested in a trembling hand, broken from a loaf that had been divided too many times. The air was cold and heavy, and hunger followed the prisoners everywhere, like a shadow that never left. The hands holding me paused. Not because they were unsure they wanted me, but because they were deciding how to share me. Fingers tore me slowly, carefully, as if I were something fragile instead of bread. Crumbs fell to the ground, tiny pieces of hope lost in the dirt, but no one complained. Each piece was passed along, palm to palm, like a silent promise that no one would be forgotten. I felt the warmth of their hands— hands that were weak, but still kind. One person could have hidden me and survived the night easier. But instead, they shared me. In a place designed to destroy compassion, sharing me was an act of resistance against one's own hunger. When I reached one prisoner, their hands shook as they lifted me to their mouth. They ate slowly, as if they were afraid I might disappear too fast. That small bite gave them just enough energy to keep moving. I wasn't much, but I helped them live another day. In a place where tomorrow was never guaranteed, that mattered more than anything. As they chewed, their eyes closed. Not because I tasted good— I didn't— but because I reminded them of home. Of warm kitchens, family tables, and days when bread was ordinary. For a moment, fear loosened its grip. By the time I was gone, nothing remained of me except crumbs and the strength I left behind. But that strength spread. Sharing me reminded them that they were still human, still capable of caring for one another. I was only a piece of bread, but I helped someone survive another day. And sometimes, hope is exactly that small.

Works Cited

Klein, Gerda Weissmann. *All but My Life* by Gerda Weissmann Klein. Hill and Wang, 2001.

Www.auschwitz.org. "Starvation and Slave Labour of Auschwitz Prisoners." Starvation and Slave Labour of Auschwitz Prisoners / Podcast / E-Learning / Education / Auschwitz-Birkenau, www.auschwitz.org/en/education/e-learning/podcast/starvation-and-slave-labour-of-auschwitz-prisoners/. Accessed 22 Jan. 2026.