

Honorable Mention

Division I – Writing

Alani Tomaneng, Grade 8

Revere Middle School

Fighting Through with Hope and Resistance

Word Count 329

Fighting Through with Hope and Resistance

H:

Haunted life, torn apart by hate

Homes stolen, family separated

Million silenced by cruelty

Yet their heart still beats with the will to fight through

O:

Overwhelming fear filled camps and ghettos,

Empty stomachs, endless pain, sleepless nights

People are treated as less than human

But still dreaming of freedom and safety

P:

People shared crumbs when they had nothing

Protected children, whispered prayers in the dark

Held onto love, faith, and kindness

Refusing to let hate erase who they are

E:

Even when hope felt fragile and small,

It survived in encouraging memory and survival

Promising a future, beyond the suffering

And reminding the world never to forget

—

R

Risking their lives as Jews they stood up to hate,

Refusing to obey laws meant to erase them,

Choosing courage, even when fear surrounded them

E

Every day resistance happened in quiet ways,

Hiding, sharing food, and spreading truth

Small actions that still meant everything

S

Surviving itself became an act of defiance,

Staying alive, keeping traditions, holding onto faith

Showing the Nazis they could not fully win

I

In camps and ghetto people secretly planned,

Passing messages, teaching children, helping others,

Proving strength still existed in horrific places

S

Some fought back with weapons and uprisings,

Like a ghetto for people who refuse to surrender,

Standing together, even when the odds were against them

T

Through pain, hunger, and loss, they stayed brave

Turning fear and determination,

And choosing to fight back in any way, they could

A

Against all cruelty, resistance showed hope

That dignity and courage could survive

Even during the darkest times

N

No matter how powerless they were made to feel,
People proved they still had a voice,
And that resistance took many forms

C

Courage to live in both loud and quiet actions
from armed rebellion to silent strength,
each one mattered

E

Even today their bravery is remembered,
Teaching us to stand up to injustice,
and to protect what is right

Works Cited

-“Rescue and Resistance.” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 23 Sept. 2025, www.ushmm.org/antisemitism/teaching-about-antisemitism/educational-modules-based-on-audio-podcasts/rescue-and-resistance.

-Klein, Gerda Weissmann. *All But My Life*. Hill and Wang, 2019.