

Honorable Mention

Division I – Writing

Gia Foutz, Grade 7

*Fire of Resistance*

Word Count 326

## Fire of Resistance

Gusts of frigid wind sweep across the horizon.

Heavy clouds drift solemnly in the hazy sky.

Buildings, ancient and weathered, line the littered streets.

Within them, families huddle together in tightly compacted spaces,

Shivering with icy cold and shaking with hunger.

Young children gaze wistfully at the towering fences confining them,

With a look in their eyes much older than they.

Minds wander between harsh reality and fond memories of the past,

Memories of glorious days,

Before dread and misery took the place of joy and laughter,

Before darkness took the place of light.

Yet, hidden deep within the camps and ghettos, a small flame flickers,

Existing on the slim hope that even in the most desperate of times,

Courageous survivors live on.

As the fire burns,

A generous man gives a mother a loaf of bread to feed her starving children.

Secret schools are formed so that the youth can receive their education.

Records and diaries are written in hope that they will one day reach the public.

Religions continue to be practiced and holidays are celebrated.

Spirits are raised with concerts and plays.

Charitable people provide others with shelter, fully aware of the potential consequences.

Partisans sleep underneath the trees, plotting rescues and sabotages.

Those bold enough to do so prepare to engage in battle,

Ready to fight for their freedom, no matter the cost.

With each effort, big or small, the fire enlarges.  
A pitiful flame, now a roaring wildfire,  
Emitting a glow fierce and strong,  
Bringing light in times of gloom and darkness,  
Brightening the dull, brick walls,  
Graciously calming the chilling winds,  
Radiating warmth and comfort.  
Stormy grays and melancholy blues,  
Dissolve in the blazing colors of sunny yellow and glowing orange,  
Reigniting a spark of hope in the hearts of all,  
Setting a joyous smile on each somber face,  
No matter the dreary state of their lives.  
For as long as the fire burns,  
All hope will never be lost.

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