

Honorable Mention

Division I – Writing

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Revere Middle School

*The Flicker*

Word Count 495

## The Flicker

It started as a heartbeat, refusing to keep rhythm with the marching boots

Far into the Polish landscape

Deep into the Russian countryside

Entrenched in the mess of France

Farther than any could fathom

And then, it spread

What began as a heartbeat, became a unification

As more and more joined

It became stronger

When they were sent from camp to camp

When they were starved and beaten

When they were marching around Europe

When they were robbed and displaced

The compassion, love, and hope grew

And as the “thems” expanded

The same ideals did as well

But when the Nazis continued their purge

We let fear grip over the control we once had

And the hope just burned out

However, somewhere within the vast abyss of darkness

A match was lit

One that would revitalize the story of hope and resilience

To continue the lost heartbeat, for generations to come

However, the flicker could not have burned through the way if it hadn't been for the 30,000 people it met along the way

For many, survival had always been both an exalted privilege and a painful burden

For those 30,000 Jews, who refused to let the flare die, they took this hope to save others

From the people of the town of Le Chambou to the abode of Anne Frank

They all share a similar principle

One that continues to live, generations after their time

Hope and Resistance

When those 30,000 saw hope, they became motivated to resist

When those 30,000 saw hope, they became motivated to help Jews escape

When those 30,000 saw hope, they became motivated to aid and rescue

When those 30,000 saw hope, they became motivated to perform countless acts of bravery that destroyed the fear and control the Nazis had created

As the flicker grew into a flame

As the gatherings became uprising

As the ideas turned to plans

The strength and hope grew stronger

The pain, suffering, and blood that brought us to this point

Finally reached its fruition

In 1945, the flame had grown to a blaze

Bright enough to extinguish the fear, control, and darkness that the Nazis imposed

Even today, we see the results of their actions

Their experiences teach us that within every single one of us

We hold an untapped reservoir of strength that comes forward at moments of crisis

The strength that can break anything

From the Nazi's literal iron curtain

To the hate they endured daily

We learn that when there is hope, resilience can endure

We learn that the consequences of inactions are far too great

We learn that resistance only needs to be a small deed

We learn the profound impact that people such as Anne Frank have on our society

We learn how their legacy, and that of many others will continue to live

At the end of day, there never was a you and me; from the very beginning, there was only us

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