

The Strength Within
Anabelle Lee, Grade 8
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Teacher: Beth Sarachman
Survivor: Pearl Barach

Pearl carried her father's love.
She carried her mother's warmth,
She carried the loss of Abraham, Eliezer, Joshua, and Moshe
her brothers, taken too young,
She carried the memory of Chana,
her baby sister never seen again.

She carried the blue star on her arm,
a symbol that marked her as less,
but she was stronger than they knew.
She carried the hunger and sickness of the ghetto,
the sting of the beatings,
and the ache of survival.

She carried a flour sack for warmth,
and the will to keep moving through the woods,
even when there was no safe place to go.

When freedom came, she carried silence,
Too shocked to speak.
She carried the weight of her story,
of those she loved and lost,
and the strength to live for them.

*And now, I carry her story.
I carry her courage,
Her strength to endure when all seemed lost.
I carry the memory of her bravery,
And the hope that lived even on the darkest nights.*

*I carry her lessons with me-
to honor the past and build a better future,
where courage, love, and hope
outshine cruelty and fear.*