

## SECOND PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL POETRY

### *The Engelina Experience*

Chloe Dafforn-Vanderlei, Grade 8  
Marine View Middle School, Huntington Beach, CA  
Teacher: Darlena Hoffman  
Testimony: Engelina Billauer

The sun rises, the dawn of a new day.  
Families whisked away, separated from loved ones, torn away.  
What is to come? With the chosen separated and sent away.

Life in a concentration camp was foreign  
The five women, the warriors, stripped of all that once was known  
Echoed "we have to hold on"  
Hair was cut, their winter clothes exchanged for threadbare, threadbare and worn uniforms.  
The camp can break your spirit, while love keeps you strong, clinging to loved ones the  
fortunate may have near.  
Creating a bond , a strength of love, with others they come to hold so dear.

Life in a concentration camp.  
Enduring hours of unyielding labor, eating rations of bread, cut into pieces of five  
One for each, the five together, they are stronger  
Learning to sleep while sitting up, the fear of death looming in the air.  
A drive to survive, pulling strength from one another  
Together they are stronger.

Life in a concentration camp.  
As the body weakens so does the mind, allowing the sights, smells, and sounds to fill one's  
mind.  
The dream of reuniting with family and relinquishing hope.

Life in a concentration camp.  
Is today the day another human chooses your fate?  
"Like melting snow, has the soul slowly melted away?"  
The spirit of love and determination to live,  
To protect each other, strengthened by the will to survive is like that of a heavy snow pack.  
The sun rises at the dawn of a new day, liberated, freed  
What is to come?  
It's the dawn of a new day.