

SECOND PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL ART

Straining for Songs of Hope

Dawne Tsui, Grade 8

Tuffree Middle School, Placentia, CA

Teacher: Jenna Linda

Survivor: Paula Lebovics

“I used to sing, and I think maybe that’s what helped me survive.”

“I used to sing,” she recalled, “and I think maybe that’s what helped me survive.” Music, a form of expression with infinite freedom, is how I connect to my innermost feelings and dreams. It must have been the same to ten-year-old Paula, illustrated in my artwork. Her shadow depicts her past; straining her fragile body and grasping her own song, she reaches through the horrific fences of Auschwitz-Birkenau with the strength of her music for hope and freedom symbolized by the butterflies.