FIRST PLACE HIGH SCHOOL POETRY

The Light in the Darkness
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Teacher: Karen Briner Survivor Testimony: Bluma Goldberg

So many things are taken for granted,
The breath you just took, the song you just chanted.
Even the will to live is a precious gift, which you must take!
Because in dreadful conditions, your will to live might slowly drift.
And suddenly your whole world might

crumble and break-

When I heard the story of Bluma Goldberg, this made sense.

I suddenly understood.

When her life was trapped within a fence,

She lost hope, like you and I would.

Starvation - a small and thin girl begging for a piece of bread.

Death - thousands of bodies, who no one could defend.

In a world where death, not life, became the new reality,
In a world where people were killed viciously and with brutality,
Young Bluma wished for her own death to arrive,
But instead, she found the source of strength that helped her stay alive.

"My sister was there with me, and I think that she is the reason that I survived."

The strength of their love continued to give them hope,

Like the fragile light of a match in the midst of darkness.

And when Bluma was ill and death grew close,

It was her sister who traded her own food for her, and cared for her most.

I close my eyes and imagine them both,

Hear the sounds of love and solidarity: a tired sigh, a whisper of hope.

These rise above the roars of pure evil and hatred,

Reminding us all that those precious signs of solidarity are sacred.

My great-great-grandmother Doba saved herself and 74 orphaned Jewish children.

She chose to love them, and this gave her the strength to stay alive.

Just like her, Bluma and her sister restored the faith that even after its darkest moment, humanity could be revived.

This instills in me the confidence that the strength of love can prevail,

As long as we embrace the lessons learned from Bluma, Doba and many others' tale.