

First Prize Writing: High School Division

The Flow of Tears

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Survivor Testimony: Harry Fern

You lived a life without fear or trouble
But it was not to last
When you were taken to the ghetto
Tears did not flow
You were starved and beaten
Nearly no life at all
Tears did not flow
When you were sent to the camp
Treated less than an animal
Tears did not flow
Even when you were liberated and free
All that was there was anger
And tears did not flow
Your human feelings
Replaced with anger and unforgiveness
And tears did not flow
Not until America and a new beginning
Did you discover your human feelings
And tears flowed
Your tears washed away your anger
And left you with courage and unforgiving
The courage to tell your story
And tears flowed

As I heard your story I discovered your anger and sorrow
Though I will never experience your horrors
I too lost my human feelings
And tears did not flow
I was bullied, and imagined ways to hurt them
And tears did not flow
It was not until an act of forgiveness
Did I discover my human feelings again
And tears flowed
And through these tears I spoke out against bullying
Just as you discovered courage to speak
So we would not forget
You told your story
And the tears flow
From those who hear your story
And tears flow
And you spoke
So no one will forget
And tears still flow