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*