

*Through My Eyes*

Monique Becker

Lakeside Middle School, Irvine

First Place Art, Middle School

The world looked on and hesitated; he saw and acted. Oskar Schindler!

These are the words found at the top and bottom of my collage. When anything as big as mass murder or anything as small as a school fist fight occurs, there are those few who just sit back and watch and those who will lend a helping hand. You could be one of those people who sit back or you could be like Oskar Schindler.

The materials I used for this art presentation were pictures I took of the eyes of friends and family, specifically the iris and the pupil, because I wanted to make a collage, with a shadow image of Oskar Schindler. I took dozens of photographs and made hundreds of copies and cut out each individual eye. My message was cut out of magazine letters and I used color pencil for the little girl in the red coat. She wears a red coat because in Steven Spielberg's movie, Schindler's List, he showed a little girl in a red coat who brought light to their dark days. This image affected me deeply so that I when I decided to do this project, I had to include the little girl.

It may seem impossible that a 14-year-old could make a difference, but it all starts with common courtesy, like picking up a pencil for a fellow student, or opening a door for an older person. This could lead to one act, an act of heroism. In your time of need would you know who to turn to? In creating this collage, I wanted to encourage people to reflect and think for themselves that there lies a hero within us all. It might be in full view or hidden, only a shadow, but it is there. The eyes depict the world looking on, the shadow is Schindler and the little girl in the red coat, innocence bringing hope. In the movie Schindler's List, Schindler's assistant gives him a ring with an inscription which says "To save one life is to save the world entire." Schindler acted and in his actions saved not the world but many innocent people, giving the world hope!

