

First Prize Poetry, Middle School Division

Would You?

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Survivor Testimony: Zelda Gordon

If all you had was taken away
And it was just your family and you
If all you could define your life with was
“Just dreams that never came true.”
Would you still dream?

If every day was a fight to live
And walls were your world’s borders
If bullets and screams were all you knew
And you were always under Nazi orders
Would you still have hope?

If a loved one died before your eyes
And you found out your family was dead
If you were starving, sick, and cold
And all you felt was fear and dread
Would you still have faith?

If everyone hated you and was out to kill
And you didn’t know when to expect an attack
If life was a living nightmare
Where you knew friends weren’t coming back
Would you still love?

If people wouldn’t believe what you went through
Turned their backs and shut their eyes
Denied all the evidence
And spoke their twisted lies
Would you endure?

If I were Zelda Gordon
And had to relive those times
Build who I am out of nothing
And speak out against their crimes
Could I forgive?