

1<sup>st</sup> Place Senior Poetry  
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***In Mine, Yours, Theirs, and Hers***

*Inspired by the witness testimony of Dame Mary Barraco*

Death is a time, not a choice, nor a game.

It's something we fear for all of our lives.

Hundreds of poems are written like this one,

Poems you look at but never seem to *read*.

Think of your life and think of whom you love,

Take away the purpose of this poem,

Take away your thoughts of why it's written,

And really think of whom you love.

In my life, I am the main character.

In my life, I make mistakes and I laugh and I cry.

In my life, I choose where I want to go.

In my life, I go outside and I breathe in the fresh air.

In my life, I live in a world where differences are celebrated.

In my life, I live.

In your life, you are the main character.

In your life, you make mistakes and you laugh and you cry.

In your life, you choose where you want to go.

In your life, you go outside and you breathe in fresh air.

In your life, you live in a world where differences are celebrated.

In your life, you live.

In their life, they were the main characters.

In their life, their mistakes were met with whips.

In their life, they were wherever he put them.

In their life, they couldn't go outside for fear of their lives.

In their life, they lived in a world where differences were exterminated.

In their life, they couldn't live.

In her life, she and the world are the main characters.

In her life, her mistakes become life-long regrets.

In her life, she was wherever she could help strangers

In her life, she resisted against his order.

In her life, she went outside to set others free.

In her life, she could have run.

In her life, she stayed and she fought.

In her life, she lives, and she lives with a voice.

Today we look at this event as a word.

We take it in as a story, but do we listen to it as a lesson?

We see the statistics of six million gone,

But our minds can't comprehend just how many stories that is,

Or how terrifying those numbers actually are.

Six million main characters,

Six million stories,

And millions of people in the world who never batted an eye.

Remember when you were told to think about your loved ones?

You love them,

You care for them,

But what if you lost them in just a simple instant?

What if they lost you without saying goodbye?

That is how millions of lives felt in one event

That today is represented by numbers on a page and just another unit to learn.

That today should be represented by the people who fought for no reward other than

The human rights of others.

That today can be represented by just one main character.

In my life, I live to make others aware.

In your life, you live to make right now better than back then.

In their life, they had no voice and no power.

In her life, she gave them a voice and she gave them a power.

In our lives, we speak in their voice and we rise with their power.

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