

2017 Elie Wiesel Competition

3rd Place Junior Poetry

Michele McDermott, 8th Grade

Great Bridge Middle School, Ashley Mansell

Change History

Condemned for being me,
That's all I want to be,
The person I was born to be.

Don't wear that,
Don't speak that way,
Your God is not the right one.

You're fat and you're ugly,
You're not cool enough,
Where did you come from anyway?

What's that scarf around your head about?
You pray the wrong way,
Why do you live here anyway?

I like being me,
I like you for you,
What do they know?

No open mind for difference,
It's their way or nothing at all,
They have no room for change.

Who put them in charge?
Who said they were right?
Who made being mean so cool?

We must stand together,
We must stand proud,
We need to come together instead.

Let your personality shine,
Let yourself be free,
Don't be ordinary.

I'll love you for you,
I'll love me for me,
Together we can change history.

Condemned for being me,

That's all I want to be,
The person I was born to be.