

2017 Elie Wiesel Competition

Honorable Mention Junior Poetry

Victoria Chapel, 7th Grade

Norfolk Collegiate School, Jill Archer

There Was a Fire

It started with a spark
Struck by the hands of hatred and anger
A spark that set a country on fire
A blaze fed by acts of cruelty upon the innocent
The only refuge from the flames were the shadows casted
Cool and dark
Those who dwelled there were indifferent to the inferno
Those who knew were afraid
A few stepped into the light
To protect those who couldn't escape fire
But not enough
Quickly, the conflagration spread throughout the continent
Scorching mountains and charring valleys
But like all fires, it died out
But not before many were lost to the flames

And now we remember
Though now the heat is gone
We remember the horror experienced by those lost to the flames
We remember how they were too powerless to stop it on their own
We remember that more could have helped but were too afraid or didn't care

We will remember
That if ever a spark is rekindled
To step into the light
And protect those who can't escape the fire
Before an entire county is set ablaze
Before it spreads throughout a continent
We will prevent history from repeating
And we will be enough to quench the flames.