

2017 Elie Wiesel Competition

2nd Place Senior Poetry

Colin Crowe, 10th Grade

Oscar Smith High School, Marianne McMillin

What Can be Done

There will soon be a day when all you can see,
is a world as desolate as worlds can be.
Rife with problems, cold as ice,
any of your efforts simply will not suffice.

And then, with a head of anger and a heart of dismay,
you will decide that it's not worth it, and say:
"I've got too many problems to take on one more
I simply do not have the energy to care anymore."

And just like that, without another word,
not a penny to the poor, not a prayer heard.
Indeed, it seems rather likely that this would ensue.
When you take on the weight of the world, the world weighs on you.

The lesson here should be obvious, I'm sure.
We've seen terrible things happen before,
around the globe or in your neighborhood,
and yet there are always people who will do good.

These people are not divine beings on high,
they are just simple people like you or I.
Five dollars for the homeless, a ride for a refugee,
all the difference to someone else, nothing much to you or me.

Society's problems can't be changed by one single man.
So the only logical thing is to help in any way you can.
Solving the world's problems is an unrealistic goal,
so it's important to remember to focus on what is inside our control.

Assist the homeless, the downtrodden, the poor,
give them the things of which you have more,
look to raise those who have fallen down,
and help out others within the town.

It's easy to feel powerless in a world so troubled,
and with widespread coverage that effect is doubled.
But it's important to know that nothing is out of your range,
with enough dedication, you can make a change.

So, despite how these times may imply,

it's important to keep your head held high.
If there's anything that history has proved,
it's that, no matter the circumstances, people's lives can improve.

