

1st place Junior Poetry
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The Williams School, Amy Lindgren

Forget

I want to forget

To escape the darkness and find a world that is innocent and pure

That is not yet blistered by hate

But I cannot forget

For when I do

Lies seep out of the walls of truth that have been built up

History will repeat itself

Rising from its grave

Becoming resurrected by falsehood

And the once tranquil world is dark-

Like the one before

I search for something untouched

But malignancy has oozed into every corner

Like black ink

Enveloping

Engrossing

Devouring everything

And it will continue to consume me until I remember

Remember the past to protect the future

Remember that the rest of me

Is not a nonentity

Because my religion is not my identity

No-

Like a knight I will stand my ground and ward off the stereotypes and propaganda

That try and break what I have built

But other soldiers fall

Into the depths of ignorance

Unable to see what is right and wrong

Forgetting the truth

Forgetting what they fought for

Forgetting everything

I do not want to fall

So I seek out the truth tellers

Be warned this is an arduous journey

For some choose to forget

Sticking their heads in the sand

Like ostriches covering from the truth

They tell me that the horrid events that I know to be true are a "distant dream"

That the past should be forgotten

Because there are no lessons in what we've already learned

Some are hypnotized by the idea

And become benighted by hate

Urging strife and destruction

And some remind me it's still true

Making my heart twist until it shatters

Because the agony in their voices is all the explanation needed

Survivors say

How can I forget?

How can anyone forget?

The bodies stacked on top of one another

The tired sunken faces staring back at you

But not everyone has seen the horror

So I must remember

For it is my duty to remind those who forget

Do not forget