

3rd Place Senior Poetry
Emma King
Oscar Smith High School, Marianne McMillin

America

America,

The land of the free,

The home of the brave,

America,

The nation of opportunity and equality,

The patron of liberty,

America,

The guardian of those who cannot protect themselves,

The partisan of rights and justice,

America,

The republic built on slavery,

The civilization that still runs on a white supremacy ideology,

America,

The government that would rather let children be slaughtered at schools than enforce gun control,

The population of teenagers that would rather take their own lives than endure another day,

America,

The statesman that can rape a woman and still remain in power,

The community where a woman cannot walk by herself at night,

America,

The society that denies two people of the same sex marriage,

The province where having two fathers or two mothers is abnormal,

America,

The people who are still religiously intolerant despite their First Amendment,

The state that sees all Muslims as a security threat,

America,

The country would rather build a wall on its border than let immigrants find a safe haven,

The federation that makes child immigrants defend themselves in court,

America,

Why is it a surprise that you would turn a blind eye to the victims of the Holocaust?

And cut off your borders to the refugees that had nowhere else to turn?

America,

Why is it a surprise that you would send emigrants back to Europe,

Where you knew they were guaranteed death?

America,

Why is it a surprise that you would send the Japanese-Americans to internment camps,

And judge the Germans for doing the same with other minorities?

America,

Why is it a surprise that you would say, "Never Again,"

But ignore genocides that are taking place today?

America,

Why is it a surprise that you recorded the horrors of the Holocaust,

And neglected to include yourself in the history books as an antagonist:

America,

The Nation Who Could Have Helped,

But Turned Away?

Bibliography

"America and the Holocaust." *Facing History and Ourselves*, <https://www.facinghistory.org/defying-nazis/america-and-holocaust>

"Life before the Holocaust." *Deportation and Transportation-the Holocaust Explained: Designed for Schools*, <https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/life-before-the-holocaust/>

"What is Genocide?" *Deportation and Transportation-the Holocaust Explained: Designed for Schools*, <https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/what-was-the-holocaust/>