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Forgiveness is the key to life

Noemi Ban came to my school and my classmates and I got to listen to her tell us her life story growing up as a Jew in the Holocaust. Noemi was about twelve and lived in Hungary with her baby brother, her little sister, her mom and dad and her grandma when the Nazis took over. First, they went to a ghetto, then into a cattle car to a concentration camp called Auschwitz. When Noemi arrived at Auschwitz there was a very long line and at the end of the line there was an SS soldier. He decided if people were going to the left where they would be gassed and die or to the right where they would work till they die. When Noemi and her family reached the end of the line the SS soldier sent Noemi's family to the left and Noemi to the right. Auschwitz was a very terrible place where 100 people had to fit into one room. And they had to work from morning to night and Noemi only got about two slices of bread and a sip of dirty soup each day. One time Noemi was working with the other prisoners and the Nazis brought out water for the prisoners to have. When the prisoners saw that they instantly rushed to the water and pushed each other over. One day a person came to Auschwitz searching for people to transport to another work camp and Noemi was one of the people that the man chose. At the new camp there was a girl who worked in the kitchen. She saw Noemi and her friends take the potato skins that were left outside as garbage. Noemi ate the potato skins. The next day the girl in the kitchen left more potato on the potato skin and then more the next day. What the prisoners did for work at this new camp was to make bombs for the war. But sometimes Noemi and her friends sabotaged the bombs. Once the Americans started winning the war the Nazis tried to walk the Jews to death. If a Jew fainted,

she or he would be shot so Noemi and her friends escaped to a shack where an American soldier saved them. (Ban).

I was really inspired listening to Ms. Ban tell us how she has forgiven the Nazis who killed most of her family. When I get called a name, I feel really angry but she was able to forgive people for so much more. Many people who have survived the Holocaust don't like to tell their stories because it is too sad and painful, Noemi overcame her fear though. She didn't share for a long time but then when she heard many times that people were saying the Holocaust never existed, it made her frustrated, so she told her story. Another thing that affected me was when she held up a glass of water, took a drink and said "I can drink this because I am a free woman". She said one of the Nazis brought a glass of water into the camp and everyone fought over it because no one had water. It made me think of all the things that are normal in my life, are super valuable in other countries. People forget that. That is why we should donate money to charity or the Holocaust Center.