

Writing: 9-12th Grade. 3rd Place.

**Jacqueline Johanneson, Grade 10. Eastside Catholic School, Sammamish. Teacher:
Ailis Thornhill.**

If These Walls Could Talk

If these walls could talk,
Would they speak of the lives they have seen lost?
Would they share the stories long forgotten;
Two people finally finding their other half,
Only to be torn apart.
Of the very place, they found their motivation to live,
Or the very place they lost it?

Would they tell of abolished opportunity?
Countless of possible breakthroughs,
Cures,
Theorems?
The next Nobel prize winner exterminated,
Next inventor starved,
Next revolutionist beaten to death.

If these walls could talk, would they use their words to perpetuate the heartache they have accumulated?
Would they use their voice to cry?
or cry out?
Would they weep tears for all of those who could not?
Exemplifying the very humanity which millions were deprived of.
Or would they, too, be left without words?

Would language be too simplistic to convey the tragedy's witnessed?
Would these walls keep their words hidden?
Pushed under the fear of history,
Hidden in the deepest caverns of their ability to share
What was.

Would these walls be unable to speak of the genocide due to their inability to have stopped it?

Physically, there is nothing they could have done.

But, if these walls could talk,

Their screams of protest could save,

Speak out,

And educate.

If these walls could talk,

Generations would protest injustice without hesitation.

For if these walls could talk,

There is no ignoring the stories;

There is no lack of comprehension;

No bias;

No media commentary.

Their words would fight the battle which so many have died fighting.

And words are all we have.