

Writing: 9-12th Grade. Honorable Mention.

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Who was I?

I am a witness of the injustice seen from most of my childhood,
Our families are split by a foul dictator, but how could this all occur?

I was a target because I held the Star of David
The Anti-Semitism influenced Nazis forced us to give up what we had

I was from Warsaw, Poland, living happily in the Ghetto

When I was 8 years old my little brother was two
We had a happy life and I would never pick a better life to choose

My brother Alek and I were proud of holding the Star of David
My mother and father taught us all about being part of the Jewish religion

No matter what happened

Not even the most horrendous of the war I survived
could take away that I only believe in one God.

On January 30, 1933 Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany

The new ruler's mind seemed so sadistic,
All the freedom that I had would soon be taken from me

Days, months, and years passed by
When the radio announced that Germany Invaded Poland in 1939,

Our lives soon turned to peril

The lives we live right now, our worlds will soon turn around
My parents tried their best to hide me and my brother Alek,

My mother would always comfort me saying
"Angelika, no matter what happens to us... look for the light."

I tried my best to encourage my little brother to fight

We hid in our basement for years at time

Every time I slept I heard the sounds of war outside our door
I would hear the loud explosions which would keep me up all night
It was difficult consoling Alex, I hear constant cries knowing he's going through a fight
My family would survive on loaves of bread and watery soup
Nothing happens hiding in a basement other than fear,
but the Gestapo breaking the doors is what nobody wants to hear
In Warsaw, the Germans decreed a new ghetto where we all would move
My hometown would soon turn into a solitary culture
On July 1942, me, Alex, and my parents were deported from the Warsaw Ghetto
We were transported to the Treblinka camp which we were all a threat to
My mother had her hair cut off and my father held back his tears
Once the guard directed them to the showers,
That would be the last time my parents would be here.
It was a sure miracle to be alive and fighting
I will never forget my mother's word "look for the light"
I promise I would be there for Alek, every single minute
We were sent to Auschwitz
Transpiration through cable car took days, constant suffers from dehydration and food
Entering the hell I've witness is impossible for the new generation to experience
They say that "Work makes one free" there was no way out of here
In 1943, we had to overcome our needs and focus on survival
I was seventeen years old and my brother was eleven when we arrive to Auschwitz
We cried, prayed, and screamed hoping that one day we can make it out alive
Alek only made it for a couple of months into the camp
The conditions were too horrendous for him to survive
I expected to be next very soon
But that wasn't true
When I was sleeping, It was like every other miserable morning
It was a very foggy morning in the camp

I heard a loud gunshot, I thought it was a daily execution
There was a boy who went into my barrack and shouted in my language "We are free."
Everyone in the barrack looked at him puzzled until we saw others running free
I saw the emaciated prisoners crawl and ran the best they could
I crawled as a free woman
I saw the Allies providing everyone with food and medical supplies
The relief was unexplainable when I sipped my first clean water in years
What would hurt always hurt is the family I've lost,
What is my purpose being if I have no family?
As the Holocaust became the past, I wonder all my life how can the world become as one
Have the world even learned from the post-wars we faced?
Has the Korean, Vietnam, and the Cold war taught us lessons prior from what happened
before?
I want to prevent the world from starting another war
Standing up for what is right gave me power to inspire
The appreciation that I receive is what I admire
If we work as a worldwide community, we can change the world
Prevent the Earth from peril
My name is Angelika Gorski
I am a survivor of the Holocaust.