



I Never Saw another Butterfly

How fortunate we are to have the freedom that exists in the United States. Imagine for just a moment military personal coming to your house telling you to pack a bag. They lead you to a train and you are taken to the first stop. Some people are told to get off the train. Others continue on. You have been separated from your family and have been essentially discarded in this dilapidated dump.

In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 12, 2018, Mrs. Kolonoski's Gifted and Talented program took some time to reflect on this dark time in humanity's history.

Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachu, Sobibor, and Treblinka are some of the most infamous concentration camps. The students though discussed a less well known area called the Theresienstadt ghetto in the Czech Republic. As the Nazi's rounded up the Jewish community, they encountered a problem when it came to well-known Jewish leaders and artists. The Nazi's decided to place these people in this abysmal interim area.

So these writers, artists, and composers inspired the children who in turn created poetry and artwork to express their feelings. Pavel Friedman wrote a poem entitled "I Never Saw another Butterfly" describing his time in the ghetto. He used the butterfly as the symbol for freedom. Pavel was sent to Auschwitz on September 29, 1944.

Friedl Dicker-Brandeis arrived with two suitcases of her basic necessities and her beloved art supplies. She worked with over 600 children while at the ghetto. Thanks to her wisdom she hid 5,000 drawings and writings into those suitcases within the ghetto. She arrived at Theresienstadt on December 17, 1942. Friedl was deported to Auschwitz October 16, 1944.

When Dutch Jews were brought to this ghetto pressure was placed on the Germans to allow the Red Cross to check on the welfare of these people. Before the Red Cross arrived, the Germans deported many Jews to various

concentration camps, they beautified the camp, and arranged cultural events for the dignitaries. Once they left, the deportations continued.

Approximately, 140,000 Jewish people came through Theresienstadt, but only 17,000 survived. 15,000 children were sent here and less than 100 survived. Based on Pavel's poem, Mrs. Kolonoski's class painted beautiful butterflies to honor the memory of the lives lost and to celebrate the survivors.



