Womer

World Literature Honors 10

**“Forbidden Friends”**

My life; it was altered;

At the young age of nine;

My family up-rooted;

Forced to move one more time.

We moved to “Out-With”;

Away from Berlin;

Unaware of the changes;

That were about to begin.

I was told to stay in our yard;

Close to home when I play;

But my curiosity beckoned;

I quickly snuck away.

I crept through the woods;

Excitement growing as I went;

Came out to a clearing;

All I saw was a fence.

The fence, it went on;

As far as I could see;

And to my surprise;

I saw a little boy staring back at me.

I cautiously walked up to the fence;

And said “hello” too the boy;

He said “hello” back with a smile;

Swelling my heart instantly with joy.

The boy’s name was Shmuel;

We formed a friendship that day;

We talked about the fence;

And why he couldn’t come out to play.

I dreamt of the boy in the Striped Pajamas;

In bed that night;

Dreaming of adventures with Shmuel;

Anticipating the morning light.

Each day I snuck off;

To spend time with my friend;

Playing checkers through the fence;

Talking until days end.

Snuggling food;

Sneaking around;

I hoped and I prayed;

That my secret wouldn’t be found.

One day at our meeting;

Shmuel seemed very sad;

I asked what was wrong;

He replied “I can’t find my dad.”

Upon hearing Shmuel’s dilemma;

I vow to help him find his dad;

We came up with a plan together;

Because his family is all he had.

The next day I snuck away;

Focused on our plan;

Shmuel met me at the fence;

Striped pajamas for me in hand.

I downed the striped pajamas;

Crawled beneath the fence;

Set off with Shmuel to find his dad;

Filled with pure intent.

When searching through the camp;

The soldiers appear;

Herding up the prisoners;

Infecting them with fear.

Single file we shuffled;

To where we did not know;

Until we reached a building;

Where they pushed and shouted, “In you go.”

Inside the room we huddled;

Shmuel and I, hand-in-hand;

The gas slowly leaking in;

Killing every man.

My parents screamed and cried;

About my untimely death;

Although not a single tear;

Was shed for all the rest.