

**Junior Poetry
Second Place
Jane Earp
Norfolk Academy
Ms. Jennifer Rodgers**

Silence.

Silence,

playing it safe.

Silence,

Not fighting back.

Silence,

A crime never punished.

Freddie Oversteegan,

Battled with bullets,

Battled the injustice,

Battled the silence.

Millions of bystanders,

“Neutral,”

“Passive,”

“Indifferent.”

11 Million Dead.

Killed by lemmings.

Killed by ignorance.

Killed by silence.

Johan Van Hulst,

A savior,

A risk-taker,

A silence breaker.

Camps,

A place for innocent life to die,

A place for dreams to dissolve.

A place for silence to grow like a weed.

Virginia Hall,

Shattered her leg,

Shattered sexist standards,

Shattered the silence.

Not picking a side,

Helping the villain,

Hurting the victim,

Siding with silence.

Carl Lutz,

Fought through paper,

Fought for lives with letters,

Fought against the silence.

Fear,

An icy cold decision maker,

A sickness with a firm siding grip,

A best friend to silence.

Silence,

Allowing suffering.

Silence,

A guilty accomplice.

Silence,

Helping no one.