

Holocaust Survivors of South Jersey Project - Teaching Resources

Center 7 Directions

In this activity, you will be using the historical context of the Holocaust, a short poem and biographical information about Holocaust survivors to write a diamante style poem. A diamante poem is a style of poetry that uses nouns, adjectives, and verbs to describe, in this case, a person that survived the Holocaust in seven lines. The poems follow a specific structure like this:

Noun

Adjective, Adjective

Verb, Verb, Verb

Noun, Noun, Noun, Noun

Verb, Verb, Verb

Adjective, Adjective

Noun

The first thing you will do is read the poem, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, which was published in “I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawings and Poems from the Terezin Concentration Camp, 1942-1944.” Read the poem on the second page of this PDF:

<https://www.holocaustcenterseattle.org/images/Education/I%20Never%20Saw%20Another%20Butterfly%20Packet%20of%20Readings.pdf>

Discuss with your group: What do they think it’s about? What might the butterfly represent in this poem?

Review these [slides](#) on writing a diamante poem before you write your poem: (click [here](#) for spanish version of slides) Select a survivor from the Holocaust Survivors of South Jersey Project [interactive powerpoint](#) to write your poem about.

- You should write the survivors name as line A.
- Two adjectives that describe the survivor in line B, like Jewish, young, healthy, athletic, sister, daughter, etc.
- Write three verbs or action words that describe them before the war, like growing, living, studying, dancing, playing, etc. in line C.

- Write one sentence that describes their experience, like “Survived four concentration camps,” in line D. Line E should have three more verbs that describe their experience during the war, like starving, working, crying, etc.
- Line F should have two more adjectives that describe the person after the war, like grateful, heartbroken, hurt, etc.
- The last line should say “survivor” as the final noun.

When you finish writing your poem, neatly copy it onto the cut out of a butterfly and decorate the butterfly using colored pencils.