

Impact Statement

Keyana Abram, Grade 11.

Free at Last, 2021.

Mixed media, 9 x 12 Inches.

Eagles Landing High School, McDonough, GA

Unsung Hero: Irena Sendler

"My parents taught me that if a man is drowning, it is irrelevant what his religion or nationality is. One must help him." This is a quote from Irena Sendler, one woman who went out of her way to save the Jewish children who were being held in the Warsaw Ghetto from 1942-1943. Irena saved a total of 2500 children from this ghetto, not seeking anything in return. Whilst saving the children she put the children into new homes and gave them new names, she wrote down these new identities and their Jewish names on slips of paper, put them in jars and buried them underground so when the time came, they could be given their identities back.

I was really drawn to this particular Unsung hero after watching the video of the 4 students who went looking for Ms. Sendler, while watching her story i felt really encouraged how she put her life at risk and had the ability to rescue over 2,000 children on her own and at her size with no one even telling her to do so. After all those years she didn't even ask for anything in return she just lived in an honorable silence. I really love how her parents taught her to help others even when no one is looking. This has really inspired me to want to go out and help others for their benefit and not mine.

In my piece I wanted to capture the names of the children in the jars as butterflies that were finally being released and given their names back after they had all been saved. I believe I signified the joy in the "butterflies" while being released by using the different variations in their posing and giving them a sense of movement. While creating this piece I think I depicted the joy that the children felt after being rescued by using bright colors in the butterflies. During the process of researching and creating this piece I have learned a lot of new skills and a lot more about being a selfless person. While making this I made my first portrait I think even though it isn't entirely accurate I do believe that it depicts Irena and all of her glory. I have also learned how to use Prisma colored pencils against the toned paper and I believe i did it very effectively.

After this experience I am going to share with my peers in my class and even my younger siblings the story of Irena Sendler and the selflessness that she had. I will start looking at the world differently and try to help the people around me no matter the circumstance. I would say that I do already have a little selflessness in me but nowhere near the amount that Irena has. I believe it was the beginning of my sophomore year and people were making fun of this quiet kid in my class and I didn't like that, so I went over to him and started to talk to him and tell him to ignore them and tell them to stop. Even though it wasn't the biggest gesture, and I wasn't given an award for it, it did hopefully make his day and that's all that matters. Going forward if i see someone in need I will help in any way I can even when no one is watching because that is what Unsung heroes do.