

## Impact Statement

Abby Lynes, Grade 8.

**Nagasaki Hero**, 2018.

Marker, watercolor on paper, 12 x 18 Inches.

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Unsung Hero: Yōsuke Yamahata

The unsung hero I chose to do was Yōsuke Yamahata. He was a Japanese photographer born in Singapore, August 6th, 1917. His father owned a photography business. He is known for taking photos of Nagasaki (長崎市) the day after it was bombed. The Nagasaki bombing was a devastating event, killing many people and devastating the area. Yōsuke Yamahata photographed the effects of the bombing to show people what these bombs could do. This opened people's eyes to the damage atomic bombs could actually inflict. This person inspires me because he was brave enough to go into the midst of the devastation and took about one hundred exposures in twelve hours. A few days later, his photos had been seen and published in a newspaper. He had done such a little thing that made such a big difference in the world's view of atomic bombs and the damage they cause.

I tried to make the way my picture was arranged resemble the cover of Yōsuke Yamahata's book, *Nagasaki Journey*, which held his photos of the Nagasaki bombing. For example, I added the willow-like branches, which are depicted on the cover, to my artwork. I also added the title of "Nagasaki Journey" exactly where it is on the book cover and recreated the Japanese calligraphy, showing that he is from Japan. In my picture, I was trying to convey the devastation felt in the event of the bombing and in Yōsuke Yamahata's photos, so the majority of it is colored with gray and black. I added splashes of red on the title and colored the Japanese shrine gate red. This color symbolizes the blood spilt in the bombing, but also the realization his photos brought to people. Basically, my artwork has a drawn picture of Yōsuke Yamahata with the willow branches branching out from behind him with the shrine gate in the background. The branches act as a divider between the recreated photos, and the title of "Nagasaki Journey" on the far right.

Yōsuke Yamahata's photos gave me inspiration for my artwork. I started by researching him and making a rough draft. I had one idea that I stuck with. I used a wide variety of media to create my work. I rough sketched it with pencil, using it to outline the basics of what would then use watercolor, brush pen, sharpie, and colored pencil on. Most of my work is watercolor, highlighted with colored pencil. I actually used watercolor to shade and add gradient. I used brush pen and sharpie to outline and draw the branches and calligraphy.