

Impact Statement

Destiny Comeaux, Grade 12.
Let Me Be Your Light, 2017.
Colored pencil on paper, 14 x 11 Inches.
Delcambre High School, Delcambre, LA
Unsung Hero: Emma Darling Cushman

I chose Emma Darling Cushman as my unsung hero, as I went down the list of hero's to choose the title caught my eye I clicked on the story and I knew there was no need to look any longer. I wanted to draw something that represented the sadness of the times, but not only that, but to focus on that "light in the darkness", who is Emma. She inspired me to draw something that I knew I would have to push myself to show the representation of the good she did for those Armenian children and others who had the threat of death hovering over their fragile, but proved to be, strong shoulders.

I personally have experienced my own "light in the darkness", as a child I lost my mother to the hatred of the world, and what sad times they were. I personally feel a connection with these children that lost their parents, friends, and loved ones as well that in which left them with the thought of being alone and having no one to care for them. I felt the same as I can imagine they felt, alone, scared, lost. But my light shown through the dark brighter than the sun itself. I felt as if I had finally found a place to belong and be cared for. For my personal light was my grandparents. They took me into their home with open arms, not because they had to, but because they wanted to. They wanted to watch me grow happy and strong, and they cared for me and gave me everything I needed to live and all the necessary needs I needed to succeed in life and with my passion in art.

I feel Emma did the same thing for those children as my grandparents did for me. Emma was born and went to school in the United States and traveled overseas to work at the Talas Hospital (Cesarea, Turkey) and the American Hospital (Konia, Turkey). As WWI broke out, the foreigners of Turkey were ordered to leave but Emma refused. She had a call to do something bigger and without knowing, she answered. Emma then started to establish homes and schools for some 3000 refugee children in Corinth, Greece. She was particularly concerned with the care of women and children who had experienced psychological trauma. But in the beginning she would rescue the orphaned children and hide them in safe homes and basements. But eventually she ran out of hiding places for them, so she then placed thousands of them in the hospital she was overseeing. This hospital eventually became an orphanage, I personally wouldn't say "orphanage" I would say sanctuary where these children were cared for and loved by Emma. A real hero is someone who fights for what they believe in and does what is right. Emma put herself last and those orphaned children and others first. She gave the children and others she rescued a second chance at life, to be able to live without wondering where they will sleep that night, or what they will eat, or even when their next meal will be. She gave them the hope and opportunity to succeed in life and continue to dream their dreams in hope of making them reality one day. Emma cared for these children as if they were her own. She led them out of a dark time in their lives, and therefore, making her the light within their darkness. Emma

proves that there is good in the world, there is hope, there is love, and there is always no matter what, a light in the darkness.