

Impact Statement

Eric Miller, Grade 11.

The Boy in Terezin, 2016.

Colored pencil on paper, 13 x 18 Inches.

Washington County High School, Washington, KS

Unsung Hero: Pavel Weiner

I chose Pavel Weiner to be my unsung hero because he gave people hope when there was very little to give. Pavel showed great courage and bravery in overcoming the challenges of the ghetto, Terezin, and in delivering light in a place where little could be found. I find Pavel to be an inspirational character because even though he was so young, he had to face harder challenges than I have had in all my life. The articles and magazines that Pavel and the other kids wrote were filled with hope and inspiration to keep on trying.

The magazines that Pavel often helped make were done in kind of a comic-book style, so I wanted to make my project resemble more of a comic book like we might see today. Since I was doing it in comic-book style, I wanted Pavel to resemble a superhero who could defy evil and allow justice to prevail, so I drew him in the center of Terezin, escaping over the walls. I also wanted to illustrate the ghetto as a dark place that wasn't taken care of well. So, I tried to make the buildings dark. He and his friends in the ghetto called themselves the Nesharim, which means eagle in Hebrew. The wings that Pavel is using to break out of the ghetto are eagle wings that represent their group showing the freedom. Pavel freeing himself from the ghetto represents hope, freedom, and the possibility that they would all be saved.

To determine the images for my illustration, I researched what buildings in the ghettos looked like. I tried to do that by making it look like the paint was peeling off and it is just spots of different colors. I looked up different pictures of eagles so I could transfer the wings to a comic book look. To draw his face I researched as many pictures as I could find to use as a reference. The wall at the bottom of the page is to represent how they were trapped inside and that Pavel and the articles he helped create showed the possibilities of escaping.

I colored Pavel with mainly all light colors so he resembles the center light in the ghetto. The wings are a white with a tan mixture to make him stand out more in the dark setting. I made the ghetto buildings dark and tried to make them look run down by making the walls look patchy. I drew the ground with worn down grass to show that it was trampled by the many people packed into one ghetto. The roof of the building was colored as grass because when I looked up pictures of ghettos a lot of them had grass as their roofs.

I hope when people see my illustration of Pavel's life they will get as interested in Pavel Weiner as I did. Pavel showed the bravery of a superhero when he tried to spread to others the hope for life after the ghetto.