

Impact Statement

Meena Pepito, Grade 7.

Faith in War, 2016.

Pencil, pastel on paper, 27.5 x 21.5 Inches.

Bridger Middle School, North Las Vegas, NV

Unsung Hero: Pavel Weiner

Pavel Weiner was the jewel of my artwork because he had an optimistic, positive heart when the world was going through a chaotic war of negativity. When the whole world was at war, his mind stuck to what was primary, to stay happy no matter what. My whole mind was persuaded that this was the most interesting, extraordinary, most intriguing story I had been led to, it unexpectedly triggered my soft spot. Pavel has such a strong spirit, and that is what put that idea in my spotlight. I am not an optimistic person; I am more of a pessimist. This boy had his whole family parted far from his will, surrounded by forty boys he barely knew that are dying slowly, vile soldiers threatening his people of their religion, them being trapped behind such depressing walls that define their total worth, missing his old childhood of joy and happiness, yet chose to have a strong-willed heart of faith and hope, having the eyes of an independent warrior. These kinds of circumstances are hard for someone to take, especially a pessimistic. Life had just handed him hardships like being too young, and whispered throughout the rest of his life, "You'll never be happy, stay sad." I love his attitude in everything he faces, and that is my inspiration towards my creation. My flaws are his strengths.

He took each step of life in a cruel period of time, during the war. My inspiration for artwork had the rest of the room he is in is depressing and very sad, yet all the joy surrounding him mentally needs to only stay within his heart. So I wanted to sketch out a broken down room that is literally rotting as seconds pass. This was going to represent life during World War 2, life as we know it is being threatened of chaos by our own human race for land and expansion and the title of greatness. Living during that event was a maze of hope and safety. The room was like where you wanted to die slowly in a period of depression and loss. Also the outside window was the vision of more war happening before your eyes. The house was their barrier of tiny bits of hope, yet they cannot deny the fact that this violence is real. Pavel is just that one survivor who managed to live with hope, but still he sits there, thinking about life. When will I see my family, will the war ever be over, am I ever going to relive joy by the fourteenth year? He cannot question the works, but hold on. So he will sit there, and be placed in a line of confusion and faith.

I wanted to take my place into his, to be in his shoes. If I was put in the middle of a war, I would be ready to die. Staying alive wouldn't really be important anymore. So like the room Pavel is (where I drew him), I would lay there, having my life decayed with the walls around me too. So him, sitting himself down on crooked floorboards, he still has an attitude, not ready to die. My idea, the concept of my artwork was to show in the most depressing times, you can still seek a light to live for. And hopefully, the fourteenth year will be a merry one. I also have shown things that represent the Jewish religion. The Menorah and their Tora, although in WW2, Hitler wanted to demolish the Jewish from Germany. This is telling the viewer that they will never be afraid to show that they are Jewish and proud. Also, the candles on the Menorah are lit with fire, which I

want to point out that their religion for being Jewish has a power like fire; bright and strong. The window is their view of war and violence, and in his hand, is his journal. The perspective of a young boy in war, which will be cherished more than ever before.