

## **We Are: Children of the Holocaust**



Mint Hill Middle School  
January 2017

Facts that the students did not know prior to the residency. I asked the classes what did they learn from the residency.

- Didn't know that so many children were killed. 1.5 million
- Didn't know that WWII took place in Europe. Thought it was only in Germany.
- Only thought that the Jews were killed.
- Didn't know that the Germans experimented on children.
- Didn't think they could write a monologue.

The residency included full participation of the students in an environmental journey from a happy home celebration to the family going into hiding, capture and loaded into a freight car to 'who was chosen for the gas chambers or the labor force'. Students were given the biography of 'a child from the holocaust' complete with a picture of the child. Some children were survivors – most were murdered. Students were given a work sheet to write an outline of their child's life. These were shared and then the student was given a worksheet to write a monologue of the child. Students read their monologues at the last class. The teacher plans to choose ten monologues to be performed at a school assembly in April (Holocaust Awareness Month). The teacher, Laura Mescey, was very supportive and participated in the activities.

### **Passages from some of the monologues.**

- 'They don't care what your name is....is there no way out?
- 'I was forced to live in the ghetto. There was no food. We were hungry. I tried to climb a wall and the last thing I remember was hearing..'he's escaping' and then I felt the bullet in my back and everything went dark'
- 'You'll never know what it was like. No one will.'

- 'I was eight years old. My mother fed me her food and went hungry. They experimented with my body. It hurt. They punched my arm with a shot of morphine and then hung me.'
- 'I still remember the day I died in the gas chamber. My nose was burning and it was like I was drowning and then I seemed to float. Suddenly everything went dark and quiet'
- 'I heard my mother yelling to me, 'I love you' and 'you'll be okay' as they dragged her to her death. I wish I could have lived the life I was meant to live.
- 'I was six years old and the last thing I remember is the fear in everyone's eyes and everyone screaming as the showers turned to gas'.
- 'The rumors came before the soldiers and my parents hid us with a Christian family. The trouble was we didn't know where our parents were. Some neighbors told the Germans about us. I don't know why they didn't like us. We were shot. At the end I heard my father's voice.'