

2016 CREATIVE ARTS STUDENT CONTEST

MOTHERS AND FATHERS: STORIES OF LOVE AND LOSS

Middle School – Third Place

“Little Did I Know” by Kaitlyn Kern of Dunwoody

Peachtree Charter Middle School

2016 CREATIVE ARTS STUDENT CONTEST
"LITTLE DID I KNOW" BY KAITLYN KERN

As we march toward the cattle cars,
I grip my mother's hand, squeezing it tighter and tighter as time goes on
I can tell she is nervous, but she tries to conceal her emotions
She is the only thing I have left
She is the reason I am still breathing
Little did I know, we were arriving at the gates of death

After what feels like an eternity, we arrive at the camp
I take my first step out of the train and onto the cold, hard ground
Little did I know, this is where my life would change forever

The guard begins to bark commands at us
I express how scared I am to my mom
They chant "Women to the left, men to the right!"
My mother glares at me, her eyes empty and worried
Little did I know, this was the last time I would see her

She gives me a hug
We then go our separate ways
My mother to the left,
Myself to the right
Little did I know, her future was about to be burned to ashes

I wonder why we deserve this
Yesterday, we lived our lives in peace
Today, we are suffocating by the smell of burning flesh
They are breaking families apart
Separating me from the only thing that I have
I have hope that she will be okay without me

2016 CREATIVE ARTS STUDENT CONTEST
"LITTLE DID I KNOW" BY KAITLYN KERN

Little did I know, she was already long gone, engulfed by the flames

It's been days

I try to reassure myself that I will be reunited with her soon

The thought of her being dead haunts me at night

I learn to adjust to my new life, excluding her presence

I try to convince myself that I am okay

I begin to believe a life without her is not much different

In fact, I may be better off

Little did I know, this was the furthest thing from the truth

Months have gone by

I seldom think of her anymore

Our separation seems small, compared to what I've experienced

Times here are rough

I'm at my breaking point,

Yet I still have the slightest ounce of hope

Little did I know, it wouldn't get any better

I have no motivation left

My body has given up

I am deprived of hope

I'm barely alive; I'm barely breathing

Little did I know, this was not where it was going to end

The day finally came

The gates were opened

Today I regained my freedom

I was told I was the lucky one

2016 CREATIVE ARTS STUDENT CONTEST
"LITTLE DID I KNOW" BY KAITLYN KERN

Today was the day I was supposed to get my life back

Little did I know, this was the day I would dread the most