

Motivation

I chose to base the poem I have written on Irena Sendler. Irena was a 29 year old Polish Social worker who managed to smuggle 2500 Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto. She would also forge fake documents for those who had escaped and offered food and shelter as a refuge for those who had gone into hiding. I wrote the poem from Sendler's point of view as she tries to save a five month old baby girl, Elzbieta Fowler (a real child saved by Irena), in a box. One of the methods she used to save the babies. As she is walking she is stopped by a German soldier whose suspicions are raised when the baby starts squirming and moving in the box. Fortunately the loud barking of her dog forces the soldier to let Irena pass (Bestehen). I chose Irena because her actions resulted in thousands of Jewish being saved from the devastating conditions of the ghetto and even death. Despite the very real danger of being captured by the Nazis, her dedication to helping others outweighed the risk of being caught. Her bravery and the lives which she saved should never be forgotten and I thought it was important to pay tribute to her.

Elzbieta

Footsteps

The sharp clang of footsteps hitting the cobblestone pavement

1, 2, 3

1, 2, 3

1, 2, 3

The sack rustles, bated breath

He stops 'Guten Abend werte Dame.'

Stillness

She squirms

'Was machst du hier so spät.'

The box shifts

He pauses

An eerie silence

1, 2, 3

1, 2, 3

1, 2, 3

The gold of his medal shimmering in the streetlight

He steps closer

Barking,

Barking pierces the silent night

Startled,

'Bestehen. Bestehen!'

Freedom

Escape.

I look at her

Brown eyes, jet black hair

Beautiful.

Elzbieta Fowler,

You will never be forgotten.