

## Examples of Open-Ended Reflections

forgetting is a never  
remembering is forever  
placing these rocks shows we care  
remembering these people who are always there  
thinking of people who were brave and kind  
is something you should have in mind  
because placing these rocks you won't forget  
thinking of these people something you won't forget  
cause holding these people love to your heart  
where you care the most from the start

**Leah Zinn, AJA grade 5**

**Marg Bedzow, AJA grade 5**

When my teacher told us about this project, I was like, "Ok, cool, let's help people, remember them." But, after thinking about it, it made me realize that it is much more than just remember. This project shows that this is something that should never happen again, especially when it does. By decorating these stones, we show that we care, that we're aware of what happened and still we're strong and unbreakable. The child I got was Sveda. Sveda was two years old when she died. TWO! She didn't get to see the world, to make friends. Who knows if she ever knew how to speak? No one, because no one remembers her. So that's our job, our mission: to make sure that people will remember her and 1.5 million other kids who were killed in the 6 horrible years of the Holocaust. **Anonymous, AJA grade**

Holding a smooth stone in my hand,

A lifelong memory worn by time and pain.

Within its depths, a story untold,

In memory's embrace, forever held.

In silent reflection, their stories are told.

Ones who lost their lives trying to hold on,

their innocence pulled away from them far too young.

We have to remember and promise for their sake,

to never let the same darkness that stole their light win again.

So now on this stone, a powerful memory will stay

and in remembrance to all who died in Holocaust, we pray.

**Anonymous, HIES grade 7**

I had a few thoughts during this activity, but one really had my focus. Life is really about luck and chance. We don't choose when or where we are born. That's up to fate. So then I wonder, why wasn't I born back then? Not like I wanted to be, but why should those children and other people be subjected to these horrible acts of violence, and I be born after? Are they considered "unlucky" for the circumstances they were born into? The powerful people in this world have simply learned to control fate, using their current circumstances to the fullest advantage. Always giving themselves the upper hand on their destiny. So let it be a lesson. If you don't control destiny, it will control you. But I don't know. This is just a thought I had.

**Anonymous, HIES grade 7**

Imagine these poor children's lives,  
Suffering in the Jewish demise.  
The things they never got to do,  
The dreams they never got to pursue.

**Eden Amos, Lovett grade 6**

When I was doing the project, a sense of importance and reverence came over me. The importance for the child who had a life to live, and that was stolen from them. An importance of what I was doing was commemorating someone who really deserves to be remembered. On the back of my stone I wrote, "Never Forgotten" for they lost their lives with no choice or warning. The reverence that came over me reminded me that I have to respect the sacrifice and life of this child. I think that doing this project opened my mind to realizing the melancholy, atrocious, murder by the Nazis, and how we must always remember them. This project made me feel the importance that the child deserves. **Riya Heda, Lovett grade 6**

The Holocaust was a dreadful time when millions of Jews were killed. The Holocaust was also known as a genocide. Adolf Hitler made the Jews of Germany sound terrible. He got everyone or almost everyone to turn against them and made their lives a living nightmare. They blamed Jews for Germany's loss in WW1. The Holocaust was a terrible experience for Jews. It continues now with antisemitism. It's important to remember the deaths and for people to remember the dreadful times so when it happens again, we fight back harder.

**Hayveh Simmons, Temple Sinai grade 6**

The Holocaust was a horrible event. It was led by Adolf Hitler. Multiple minorities got killed. The Nazis were Adolf Hitler's army, who strived to brutally murder many people. 12 million killed in total and over half were Jews. We still have to worry about this because Jewish people still have to handle antisemitism every day.

**Anonymous, Temple Sinai grade 6**