Dared to be Different

Angelina Ahrendt, Grade 9 Canyon High School, Anaheim, CA Teacher: Tannis Deloyola Surviyor: Zuzanna Adam

Your idyllic childhood ended as darkness fell over your nation So you did what you must to endure

Your parents' love and devotion was cherished And then you were on your own

The road you were about to travel Would bring grave danger

But you refused to lose hope You never gave up

False papers and a new name Allowed you to get by

Until the day you were discovered and sent to jail Your weakest moment, but not the end

A concealed photograph of your mother Your most valued possession

Strangers who dared to be different Kept you alive

A policeman with a tender heart Hand-fed you so you wouldn't die

A landlord who suspected your identity Looked the other way

A courageous woman
Shared her food rations and shelter

And your soulmate's relentless toil Would one day reunite you

In the darkest times of torment and evil The selfless gestures of others kept you going

You taught me that the power of love and kindness Gives strength in uncertain times

Your story has inspired me during these difficult times To be that person who dares to be different