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Middle School Poetry
First Place

Walls of Wood and Wire

Lucille Eichengreen*, a child of Lodz
Surrounded by wood and wire

She packs and prepares for a long day of labor
Imposed by King Chaim

King Chaim, a man who believes
He is saving lives,

But so many died from the
Tension and hardship of work

Many this child has seen has seen
Have also lost the will to live

They choose to give up,
To take the dark path of death

This child has seen many
Die at the hands of soldiers

Those that have died say,
“Going to the wire,” is better than this life

When night falls all is dark,
The darkness covers all, a heavy blanket of black

Not one light goes on, even as a child screams
Nightmares terrorize all

The terrors of this life seem unbearable,
But this child bears it

She prepares to speak of all the horrors,
She prays that the new generations will listen carefully

Generations that need to protect those

Criticized for their religion or race.

And I, a child of the newest generation
Promise to protect and listen

Listen to she who bore the weight,
Lucille Eichengreen, a child of Lodz, surrounded by walls of wood and wire.

Sources

Lucille Eichengreen. <http://www.webtran.com/lucille/author/htm>

Hogan, David, ed., *The Holocaust Chronicle: A History in Words and Pictures*.
Lincolnwood, Illinois: Publications International, 2000.

* Lucille Eichengreen was known as Cecilia Landau during the time of the Holocaust.
Her married name is Lucille Eichengreen