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Tolerance Essay

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The Light of Friendship

Chances are you have seen it. At school, work, or just walking by, it is everywhere. I am talking about prejudice, I am talking about intolerance, I am talking about stereotyping, and I am talking about bullying. It is sad that it is not just one problem. Anywhere you traveled, you are bound to find one of these somewhere. It angers me when I hear about someone making fun of another for the fun of it, or if they think they are better than another. Sometimes people that have this happen to them get help, other times it is not so easy. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel. You may just not see it yet. That light is friendship and tolerance.

Many years ago during the Holocaust, there lived a girl named Aranka. Aranka fell victim to the cruelty of the Nazis just because she had a different religion. She was sent to a concentration camp where her friends and relatives were dehumanized, beaten, and killed. Aranka was always scared, and prayed that she might live another day. In the end, Aranka survived. Do you know why? Because she found love, and made a friend. In the midst of all of the hate, it all disappeared when she felt the warmth and protection of a loved one. Aranka met a man named Josef and eventually married him. They grew old and lived a wonderful, happy life.

As you can see, Aranka's story can relate to today's situation. You might feel like you are all alone and there is no hope for tomorrow. That is just like what Aranka felt during the Holocaust. You need to follow her example and try to make a friend, and feel the warmth and protection. It is much easier to face your problems with a friend at your side, rather than take them head on alone. You and your friend will survive the hardship

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and your life will too, be happy and wonderful. Never give up hope. Instead of thinking of the unhappiness that may occur in the future, laugh! Have fun! You write your own story, not some bully.

I wish I could say that there is only good in the world, and that prejudice, stereotyping, intolerance, and bullying never existed. But it does. We have to be the ones who are not prejudice, who do not stereotype, who are tolerant, who do not bully. Help those who are being bullied, and you will be the one to show them that good exists. Sometimes, those little things mean the most. If they know they have someone who has their back, they will see the light at the end of the tunnel, and strive toward it until they achieve their goal of peace at least. Do not walk by. Do not extend their misery another day. End it right then and there. Be the Josef like in Aranka's story. You never know, you just might make a new friend.