

## JA7

### Title: A pile of roses

I walked past the piles upon piles of shoes... each pair representing a life. That place was devoid of joy; and any happiness created was almost immediately repressed because of guilt, grief and a humble salute to those lost their lives. It was over; the war was over. Celebration was what should have been felt, but not there... anywhere but there. The only exception to the sorrow was where the white rambling roses grew in and amongst the shoes. I stopped to admire a rose, but not even her beauty could bring peace. I knew no one could be happy there and I had to leave. I had to let it go and focus on the positives that the world still had to offer; even something simple like the attraction of a white rose that grows somewhere else... other than that soul-touching grey place. A rose that grew in the rich farmlands of Wiltshire would perhaps be a better fit. Its simple beauty would bloom. The shoes had and will always bring sadness.

Humbly respect the past and focus on a peaceful future.

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### RATIONALE

**Rationale:** In this creative writing, the author describes a heartfelt moment during a visit to a Holocaust memorial site, depicted by a pile of shoes. It brought the author to a standstill, inspecting the shoes and struggling with the realization that each pair, represents a life that was taken away. The author's attention was drawn to a rambling rose that found a path through the shoes and blossomed a perfectly white rose. The author reflects, that the symbolism of the peaceful rose is too heavy to bear. And that the rose would be more fitting in a simple setting, like an English country garden. The author tries to find solace but concluded that this memorial site, despite the beauty of a rose, would always remain a sad place to visit. And in such times, the author concludes, we should reflect on the past with humbleness and respect while turning our focus to a more peaceful future.