

HONORABLE MENTION

Heidi Bleeker

Plymouth Christian High School

10th Grade

Courage

Hermine Santruschitz, better known as Miep Gies, was sitting at her desk, quietly working when the door swung open and a man stepped in, pointing a gun at her. "Don't move. Don't make a noise," he said. On August 4, 1944, Miep's life was changed after having the courage to hide Anne Frank and her family for more than two years. Anne and her family were betrayed for money, arrested, and taken away to concentration camps. Friends of the Frank family gave money to Miep to try to bribe the Germans to release the Franks but sadly her bribe failed. But this did not change the courage that it took for Miep to hide the family and to beg of their release.

What courage is today has been determined by what courage has been to people in the past. Courage has been defined by the valiant acts of our country's war heroes and our founding fathers bravery. Yet courage is so much more than the famous acts of the well-known heroes of history. Courage is being able to face the daily problems of life as well as dangerous, life-threatening issues without others seeing the fear one has in doing so and being able to move on after these difficult situations.

When a whole town is wiped out by a tornado, however the people find shelter and live through it. They go back to find all the buildings gone. Their homes and everything from their past is gone. But yet they manage to pick up what is left and rebuild so that they can go on with their lives. They go on as if their life is normal. It takes courage to do this.

When young parents lose their home because they can't pay the rent anymore, yet they pick up their child and the mother goes to find a job along with her husband. They work hard to provide for their child, clothe, feed, and give the child a place to live. They go on as if they have no fear of what will happen. This is courage today.

Courage today is a person, child or adult, going to school or work every day and standing up for what he believes is right. Courage is a person defending the religion he believes in when others are making a mockery of it.

These are all wonderful examples of what courage is today yet even more so, true courage is being able to put trust in God for the future and not worry about it. May others see what true courage today is and not only have selfish courage. People should share their courage today with others and live their lives according to the purpose for which they are meant.

"The Netherlands//Miep Gies." *The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous*. Web. 5 Mar. 2014.
<<http://www.jfr.org/pages/rescuer-support/stories/the-netherlands/-miep-gies>>.