

Teen Group

1st Place

A Sentence of 13,000

By: Alyssa Lee

13,000, I had contained,
I suppose dead in current day.
10 killed within me,
But their sprits within still lay.

Visitors come and go,
Never could they imagine,
The tears shed, the lives lost,
The faced humiliation.

Never will another soul know,
The pain became a daily task.
And only I, to witness all,
to experience, I would never, dare ask.

Of course all knew,
All had experienced more than just pain.
The guilt eating each one, bit by bit each day.
That's the killer that caused their shame.

And guilty truly had reason.
For it itself was locked in,
With each of the 13,000,
They brought the guilt within.

2nd Place

The Penitentiary
By: Cordelia Bowlin

Shouts and screams fill the air, guardsmen
scurry everywhere. The clock ticks slowly, tick
by tick, there is nothing they can do but sit,
sit, sit. Wasting away is their due, losing
everything they thought was true.

3rd Place

The Old Penitentiary
By: Sandra Arredondo

I don't know if it's night or day
I have no freedom in this cage
I am bored day after day with nothing to do
I am treated like an uncontrollable wild animal
I am thirsty, but have no water
I scratch my nail on the wall, symbolizing one more lonely day in this prison
I don't remember how fresh air feels like
I ask myself over and over every day
What is life without freedom?