

Kaela Watson

First Place

Teen

Walls

Footsteps

Echo

They bounce against

The walls

The bars

The memories

What happened here?

What stories haven't been told?

Who dared dream of escape

By those brooding and bleak

Barriers?

How could they live here?

The solid forms of theses ghostly impressions

Of people?

My footsteps

Echo calling to each

Moment and recollection

Every forgotten and cryptic memory

That lies within these sullen walls.

Hunter Sims-Douglas

Second place

Teen

I Still See

I still see the images of the broken;

The cold floors

I hide in my cell

In my own little world,

Blocking everyone out

In my dreams I run

Remembering building the wretched place

They kept me from my old life

And I deserved it

I as an inmate in this prison

Everyone was different

They did different things

Wilson, Steinbach

They did things they shouldn't have

And so did I

The halls echo with the noises of the lost

The haunted halls ring

Every footstep

Every inmate's number

Are stuck in my mind; my nightmares

I remember the days'
The sounds were memorable
But the memories are inaudible

I still want to hid
To leave this world

I took a man's life
And it wasn't worth it
I shouldn't be alive
The grief is unbearable
I shouldn't have been released

All those things
All those nights and days
The sounds
The lives of those criminals
I may no remember them
But is still see them

Ady Zamzow
Honorable mention
Teen

I step into the penitentiary
Young and unaware
I walk into the rose garden.
And my finger gently touches the silky petals of a rose,
Slowly I move my finger down the bush,
And I am pricked by a rose thorn,
That was I needed to remind myself,
That all beautiful things
Have a dark side.