Student: Elijah Halford, grade 8 Teacher: Brook Halford, Halford Homeschool

My visual arts project is titled, "It Could Happen Here!" I read *Echoes From the Holocaust: A Memoir* by Mira Ryczke Kimmelman after attending a play sponsored by the Tennessee Holocaust Commission in March. Since that time, I have been thinking about similarities between Germany in the 1930s and the United States now. The final paragraph of the book is where I found my title: "If we remain indifferent to human suffering, it could happen again; it can happen here....Teach it, tell it, read it." (Kimmelman, 165) Recent events involving antisemitic sentiments from celebrities I had once admired led me to look further into what has been going on in current events. When researching antisemitic events, I realized how much has been happening in the past few years that I did not realize.

In the folded drawing, I depicted some events that I read about. I saw a chart about the antisemitic incidents in past years, and how they skyrocketed in 2021 and 2022. Some of the incidents that I chose to depict include the Jewish school ground threats on social media, the assault of Orthodox Jews with BB guns in New York, and the synagogue shooting in Pittsburg. After learning about these cruel events, I would like to raise awareness of others that antisemitic and racist themes in cartoons and social media are not funny. Instead, these acts are steppingstones in the path towards another Holocaust that cost the lives of six million Jews, including Mira Kimmelman's family.

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