“Never Shall I Forget” Poetry Activity

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed.
Never shall I forget that smoke.
Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky.
Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever.
Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live.
Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust.
Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself.
Never.

(Wiesel, 34)

INTRODUCTION:

In chapter 3 on page 34, Elie speaks of everything he sees around him, using the words, “Never Shall I Forget.” Oftentimes poetry is the most effective method for describing feelings from a specific memory or event. Elie uses poetry in Night in order to summarize his emotions, both spiritually and mentally, after his first day in Birkenau. We have also experienced intense emotion after experiencing an event, whether positive or negative. Therefore, we will mimic Elie’s writing style in order to record our own experience or memory.

THE PROCESS:

- Write your own poem titled, “Never Shall I Forget…”
  - You are to mimic Wiesel’s writing style.
  - Follow the same format as on page 34. Your lines should begin with “Never Shall I forget”
  - Pick a very memorable moment or event in your life to focus on, applying the 5 senses and concrete details to each line.
  - The poem doesn’t necessarily have to be a painful experience as Elie’s was.

- RUBRIC:
  - Format/Length: The same format/amount of lines as Wiesel
  - Imagery: The five senses should be used as much as possible
  - Creativity: The poem should be creatively displayed (no lined paper, pen/pencil). Yes, it must be colored!

DUE: Monday, December 3, at the beginning of class

REFERENCE