

**Senior Poem 3rd Place
Kaeling H.
Branch 96 Brockville
Zone G-2**

Soldier

The red morning sky shines bright upon my head
The sounds of bullets and bombs surround my ears
The smell of ammunition, rotting, and death fill my nose
The taste of stale rations and smoke engulf my mouth
The sights I see, and saw will forever be ingrained in my brain
Although these things might not be ordinary to you, they are to me
Why?

I am a Soldier

I am like you
I have a loving family back home
Parents, wife, son, daughter
I love them dearly
I love my life
But I left them behind
Why?

I am a Soldier

I fight everyday
I see things that cannot be unseen
Injuries beyond repair; mental and physical
Death in mass numbers, soldiers dead that are just like me
Soldiers that will never see their families again
I endure pain that no one should have to endure
I try to have a positive approach everyday, but sometimes I break down and cry
Cry for everything I've lost and everything they've lost

But I still stand up and fight

Why?

I am a Soldier

I fight for my country

I fight for my family, the ones alive and the ones to come

I fight for freedom, justice, and hope

Why?

I am a Soldier