

BLAISE DeROBERTS is a sixth grader at Montessori School at Holy Rosary in Cleveland. He is an avid hockey player and envisions being a lawyer who fights for people's rights. Hate, what is hate? It's discrimination against a person or another race. All hate begins with words. You are not born with the ability to hate. Hate is taught by words, actions and indifference.

In Billings, Montana, a Jewish child was discriminated against when he put a menorah in his bedroom window to celebrate Hanukkah. Someone who was full of hatred threw a piece of cinder block through the window. Luckily the little boy was not in his bed. The town newspaper printed menorahs and encouraged citizens to put them in their windows. More windows with menorahs were broken. At the end of the month, over 10,000 menorahs were placed in windows all around Billings, Montana.

I think that the people who broke the windows chose to hate. They hated everyone who wasn't scared to put menorahs in their windows. I think that the people of Billings were brave. They risked getting their windows shattered. They knew that their windows could be shattered. They didn't know if other things could happen. Some houses were also spray-painted with swastikas and other Nazi symbols. They could have even been risking their lives.

I would have put the menorah in my window. I would have helped to clean up the graffiti. If I heard people speaking hatefully, I would tell them to stop.

I am committed to stop hate. I am writing this essay to speak out against hatred. In my school, I tell people who are not following the rules to stop. When I hear unkind words, I tell them to stop. When I start saying unkind things, I tell myself to stop. In my neighborhood, I help my neighbors shovel snow and take out their trash. I serve Mass. I help at the Alta House to set up for events.

I quote Anne Frank, "We are all different but yet the same." I know that I may be different from you, but we are all one.