

# Writing About and Analyzing Holocaust Poetry

Upon close reading of the poem and accompanying artwork (If there is any.) use these questions to discover the underlying message and meaning of the poem. Being able to answer most of these questions will enable you to write a brief essay in your own words about the poem and accompanying artwork. The artwork questions will be relevant when you analyze the poems in the book "I Never Saw Another Butterfly...".

## Consider the Following Questions:

- What does the title contribute to the reader's understanding of the poem?
- What does the artwork contribute to the reader's understanding of the poem?
- Who is speaking? Where is the speaker when the poem (and artwork) is happening or unfolding?
- What is the situation? What has happened in the past, or what is happening in the present, that has brought about the poem (and artwork)?
- What difficult, special, or unusual words does the poem contain? What references need explaining? How does an explanation assist in the understanding of the poem?
- How does the poem develop? Is it a personal statement? Is it a story?
- What is the main idea of the poem? What details make possible the formulation of the main idea?