

(課題 NO. 2)

Zlata's Diary

SHOOTING!! PEOPLE BEING KILLED!! HUNGER!! FEAR!!

That's my life! The life of an innocent eleven-year-old schoolgirl!! A schoolgirl without a school. A child without games, without friends, without the sun, without chocolate, with just a little powdered milk. In short, a child without a childhood.

I am living through an ugly, disgusting war. I and thousands of other children are living in a town that is being destroyed, that is seeking help, but getting none. Will I ever enjoy my childhood again? I once heard that childhood is the most wonderful time of your life. I loved mine, and now an ugly war is taking it all away from me. Why? I feel like crying. I am crying.

I don't remember when I last left the house. It must be almost two months ago now. I really miss Grandma and Grandad. I used to see them every day, and now I haven't seen them for such a long time.

I spend my days in the house. That's my wartime childhood. And it's summer. Other children are holidaying, enjoying themselves. God, what did I do to deserve being in a war, spending my days in a way that no child should?

All I can see through the broken windows is the park in front of my house. Empty, deserted, no children, no joy. I hear the sounds of shells, and everything around me smells of war. War is now my life. OOHOO, I can't stand it anymore!

Sometimes I wish I had wings so I could fly away from this hell. But to do that I'd need wings for Mummy, wings for Daddy, my grandparents. And that's impossible, because humans are not birds.

That's why I have to try to get through all this. I hope that I will be a child again, living my childhood in peace.

(307 words)

Adapted from the English translation of Zlata's Diary (Filipović 1993)