

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Additional Resources: Books

MISSION US: "Prisoner in My Homeland"

The creators of MISSION US have assembled the following list of non-fiction and fiction books to enhance and extend teacher and student learning about the people, places, and historical events depicted in the game.

Non-Fiction for Students

Atkins, Laura, Yogi, Stan, and Yutaka Houlette. *Fred Korematsu Speaks Up*. Berkeley: Heydey Books, 2017.

This book is aimed at younger readers, but packs a punch for any age: Through colorful illustrations and design, the book tells the story of Fred Korematsu, who resisted the incarceration orders and would later bring a landmark case against the U.S. government.

Grady, Cynthia. *Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind*. New York: Penguin Random House, 2018.

When Executive Order 9066 is enacted after the attack at Pearl Harbor, children's librarian Clara Breed's young Japanese American patrons are to be sent to prison camp. Before they are moved, Breed asks the children to write her letters and gives them books to take with them. To tell the story, Grady uses illustrations and excerpts from children's letters held at the Japanese American National Museum.

Okubo, Miné. *Citizen 13660*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1983.

Okubo's classic graphic memoir of life in relocation centers in California and Utah, illuminates this experience with moving illustrations and incisively-composed text.

Takei, George. *They Called Us Enemy*. San Diego: Top Shelf Productions, 2019.

They Called Us Enemy is Takei's firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.

Fiction for Students

Conkling, Winifred. *Sylvia & Aki*. New York: Yearling Books, 2013.

This historical novel is based on the real-life stories of Sylvia Mendez and Aki Munemitsu, both third-graders during World War II. Sylvia is the center of a landmark legal battle over school segregation. Japanese American Aki is forced from her home and her life as she knew it. The novel's chapters alternate between their experiences.

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Kadohata, Cynthia. *A Place to Belong*. New York: Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2019.

In this novel for YA readers, a Japanese-American family, reeling from their ill-treatment in prison camps, gives up their American citizenship to move back to Hiroshima, unaware of the devastation caused by the atomic bomb.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Weedflower*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2008.

After the attacks on Pearl Harbor, twelve-year-old Sumiko Sumiko and her family find themselves being shipped to a prison camp in one of the hottest deserts in the United States. In the course of this YA novel, Sumiko soon discovers that the camp is on an Indian reservation and meets a young Mohave boy.

Nagai, Mariko. *Dust of Eden*. Parkridge, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 2018.

In early 1942, thirteen-year-old Mina Masako Tagawa and her Japanese American family are sent from their home in Seattle to an internment camp in Idaho. This novel for middle-grade readers asks: What do you do when your home country treats you like an enemy?

Sepahban, Lois. *Paper Wishes*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016.

Ten-year-old Manami did not realize how peaceful her family's life on Bainbridge Island was until the day it all changed. This YA novel follows Manami and her family after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1942 as they leave their home by the sea and join other Japanese Americans at a prison camp in the desert.

Sugiura, Misa. *This Time Will Be Different*. New York: HarperTeen, 2019.

This YA novel is about seventeen-year-old CJ, who never lived up to her mom's type A ambition. CJ is perfectly happy just helping her aunt, Hannah, at their family's flower shop. Then her mom decides to sell the shop—to the family who swindled CJ's grandparents when thousands of Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps during World War II.

Uchida, Yoshiko. *Journey to Topaz*. Berkeley: Heydey Books, 1971.

First published in 1971, this book is a widely read classic. Based on Yoshiko Uchida's personal experiences, this is the story of one girl's struggle to remain brave during the Japanese incarceration during World War II.

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Wakatsuki Houston, Jeanne and James D. Houston. *Farewell to Manzanar*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1973.

Aimed at middle grade readers, this book has long been used by teachers to introduce students to the Japanese American incarceration. Curriculum for this book is available from Facing History and Ourselves.

Non-Fiction for Teachers

Bannai, Lorraine K. *Enduring Conviction: Fred Korematsu and His Quest for Justice*. University of Washington Press, 2015.

This book tells the story of Fred Korematsu's decision to resist F.D.R.'s Executive Order 9066, which provided authority for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. *Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians*. Seattle: University of Washington Press and Washington D.C.: Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, 1997.

This report by the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), a commission created by the U.S. Congress in 1980, studies the causes and consequences of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. It includes a December 1982 report on the Commission's findings, as well as the Commission's June 1983 recommendations. The Commission's report and findings were responses to the growing campaign for redress for Japanese Americans who suffered imprisonment during World War II and laid the foundation for Congress to provide redress through the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Daniels, Roger, Sandra Taylor, and Harry Kitano, eds. *Japanese Americans: From Relocation to Redress*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1988.

One of the earlier comprehensive accounts of the Japanese American experience, covering the forced removal during World War II to the public policy debate over redress and reparations. This chronology is underscored by first-person accounts and essays by scholars.

Gordon, Linda, and Gary Y. Okihiro, Eds. *Impounded: Dorothea Lange and the Censored Images of Japanese American Internment*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2006. Dorothea Lange's indelible images are an extraordinary photographic record of the Japanese American incarceration. She was one of a handful of white people impelled to speak out.

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Hayami, Stanley, and Joanne Oppenheim, Ed. *Stanley Hayami: Nisei Son – His Diary, Letters, & Story*. Shelter Island Hts., NY: J.T. Colby & Company, Inc., 2008.

Stanley Hayami was sixteen when he was sent to Heart Mountain. He kept a diary of his life in the camps, augmented with sketches and drawings. This book is based on his diary, now in the permanent collection of the Japanese American National Museum.

Inada, Lawson Fusao, Ed. *Only What We Could Carry: The Japanese American Internment Experience*. Berkeley: Heyday, 2000.

Inada's edited volume is a cogent and well-organized blend of historical artifacts, literary texts, art, and memoir, and a key resource for any teacher of this chapter of American history.

Ishizuka, Karen L. *Lost & Found: Reclaiming the Japanese American Incarceration*. Los Angeles: Japanese American National Museum, 2006.

For decades, victims of the U.S. mass incarceration were kept from understanding their experience by governmental cover-ups, euphemisms, and societal silence. Combining heartfelt stories with first-rate scholarship, this companion book to the Japanese American National Museum's critically acclaimed exhibition, *America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience*, reveals the complexities of a people reclaiming their own history.

Kashima, Tetsuden. *Judgment without Trial: Japanese American Imprisonment during World War II*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2003.

An important overview of the many programs and shifting policies during the incarceration period. Kashima reveals that long before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government began making plans for the eventual incarceration of the Japanese American incarceration. The book also covers the "Loyalty Questionnaire" and the redesignation of Tule Lake as a segregation center.

Muller, Eric L. *American Inquisition: The Hunt for Japanese American Disloyalty in World War II*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007.

A study of the Japanese American incarceration that examines the complex inner workings of the only loyalty screening that the American government has ever deployed against its own citizens.

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National JACL Power of Words II Committee. *Power of Words Handbook: A Guide to Language About Japanese Americans in World War II.* National JACL Power of Words II Committee, 2013.

This is an essential guide for teachers wishing to know more about the importance of terminology in teaching this history.

Weglyn, Michi. (1976). *Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps.* New York: William Morrow and Company.

Weglyn's classic 1976 text is one of the most comprehensive and subtle histories of the Japanese American incarceration period. Her text also gives thorough readings of the loyalty questionnaire, the resistance of the military draft, and the renunciation of citizenship movement at Tule Lake.

Yamashita, Karen Tei. *Letters to Memory.* Minneapolis, Coffee House Press, 2017.

Letters to Memory examines the Japanese American incarceration using archival materials from the Yamashita family as well as a series of letters to composite characters. Yamashita's letters explore expand the history's implications beyond her family and our nation-state, examining ideas of debt, forgiveness, civil rights, orientalism, and community.