

## **STUDENT READING LIST: JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT**

### ***FICTION***

BASEBALL SAVED US by Ken Mochizuki, illustrated by Dom Lee (Lee & Low, 1993). Successful both as a story within the Internment experience and as a sports story. A stand-out, must-read for anyone interested in this experience in American history. Ages 4-up.

BEACON HILL BOYS by Ken Mochizuki. Like other Japanese-American families in the Beacon Hill area of Seattle in the early 1970s, 16-year-old Dan Inagaki's parents expect him to be an example of the "model minority." But unlike Dan's older brother, with his 4.0 GPA and college scholarship, Dan is tired of being called "Oriental" by his teachers, and sick of feeling invisible. Dan's growing self-hatred threatens his struggle to claim an identity. His best friends share his anger and confusion. Together these Beacon Hill Boys fall into a spiral of rebellion that is all too all-American. Ages 12-up.

THE BRACELET by Yoshiko Uchida, illustrated by Joanna Yardley (Philomel, 1993). Emi must leave both her home and her best friend Laurie because her family is being moved to an internment camp. Laurie gives Emi a bracelet, so that Emi can look at it and remember their friendship. When Emi loses the bracelet, she fears she'll soon forget her friend. Ages 5-up.

FLOWERS FROM MARIKO by Rick Noguchi and Deneen Jenks, illustrated by Michelle Reiko Kumata (Lee and Low, 2001). After World War II, Mariko and her family can leave the internment camp. But what how much has been lost since they left home, and how will they ever rebuild again? A tribute to the historical tragedy and a celebration of the strength of Mariko's character and family, this picture book should be included as a companion to units about the internment. Ages 4-up.

HEROES by Ken Mochizuki, illustrated by Dom Lee. A Japanese American boy learns about heroism from his father and uncle, who served in the U.S. Army.

KIM/KIMI by Hadly Irwin. Despite a warm relationship with her mother, stepfather, and half brother, sixteen-year-old Kim feels the need to find answers about the Japanese American father she never knew.

THE MOON BRIDGE by Marcia Savin (Paper, Scholastic, 1995). A friendship between Ruthie Fox and Mitzi Fujimoto is tested by anti-Japanese-American prejudice, especially when Mitzi's family is sent to an interment camp. Ages 9-up.

SO FAR FROM THE SEA by Eve Bunting and illustrated by Chris Soentpiet (Clarion, 1998). Laura Iwasaki and her family visit her grandfather's grave at Manzanar for the last time and revisit that experience in their family history. Soentpiet is one of my favorite young illustrators; a name to continue watching. Ages 5-up.

UNDER THE BLOOD-RED SUN by Graham Salisbury. Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

A JAR OF DREAMS by Yoshiko Uchida. Eleven-year-old Rinko grows up in a closely-knit Japanese American family in California during the Depression, a time of great prejudice.

### ***NON-FICTION***

THE CHILDREN OF TOPAZ: THE STORY OF THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN INTERNMENT CAMP by Michael O. Tunnell and George W. Chilcoat (Holiday House, 1996). This non-fiction book was based on a diary kept by Miss Yamauchi's third-grade class at the relocation center. Highly recommended for reading in conjunction with related fiction. Ages 8-up.

FAREWELL TO MANZANAR by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston (Bantam, 1974). The true story of Wakatsuki's own experience as a child growing up at Manzanar. Vivid in its use of detail. Ages 12-up.

I AM AN AMERICAN: A TRUE STORY OF JAPANESE INTERNMENT by Jerry Stanley, illustrated with photographs (Crown, 1994). At the same time personal and broad based, this non-fiction book for young adults follows the experiences of a high school senior named Shi Nomura and weaves in the history that impacted his life and that of so many others. Like THE CHILDREN OF TOPAZ, highly recommended for reading in conjunction with related fiction. Ages 14-up.

THE INVISIBLE THREAD: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY by Yoshiko Uchida (Beech Tree, 1995). The author describes her experiences growing up as a *Nisei* in Berkeley and her family's internment in Nevada. Ages 9-up.

JAPANESE-AMERICAN INTERNMENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY by David K. Fremon. Includes personal accounts to describe the period in American history when Japanese Americans were detained in internment camps; also, discusses the issues and controversy surrounding the decision.

LIFE IN A JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT CAMP by Diane Yancey. Discusses the course of Japanese immigration into the United States, events leading to the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the conditions they faced in the internment camps.

VOICES FROM THE CAMPS by Larry Brimner. Japanese Americans tell of their experiences during the evacuation to internment camps after the attack on Pearl Harbor.