

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

The materials in this unit plan are meant to be flexible and easy to adapt to your own classroom. Each chapter has discussion questions provided in a later section. However, for students reading the entire book, there are several themes that connect the stories. Students should be introduced to one or more the following key questions as they begin reading, and keep them in mind as they work through the book:

How do people get through hard times?

What makes a person grow up?

Are the characters in the book American? What makes a person American?

Many of the reader response questions and suggested projects relate to these essential questions. Students are encouraged to ask these questions not only of the characters of the book, but of themselves.

ADDITIONAL LESSON PLANS

A Literature-Based Approach

This curriculum includes four distinct parts. The introductory activities presented in this packet are adapted from this collection: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/internment/njahs1.html>

"Journey Home" Curriculum

The Journey Home curriculum includes detailed day-by-day activities, including a daily journal prompt, word skills, a social studies connection, and a visual art connection. The discussion questions presented in this packet are adapted from this collection: http://www.ualr.edu/lifeinterrupted/curriculum/journey_home_curriculum.asp

A Virtual Museum

This online project features nine "halls" of work arranged by a 5th grade class. A great place for students to explore, or inspiration for their own project: http://home.jps.net/~gailhd/Journey_to_Topaz_-_A_Virtual_Museum.html

"Journey Through Topaz"

A six-page site which is a great introduction to the events leading up to and during Japanese Internment. http://www.uen.org/utahlink/tours/tourFames.cgi?tour_id=14717

"Time of Remembrance" Lessons + Video

A great four-week lesson plan with video clips of a woman who lived through internment, sharing her experiences in an interview. Clips can be mixed and matched: http://www.egusd.net/tor/lessons/a_patton/lesson.html#