

Summer Reading: 8th Grade

Japanese Internment Camps

Your summer assignment is to choose one of the five books below--each about Japanese internment camps in the United States during World War II--and complete three tasks. The complete assignments should either be typed (12pt font, double spaced) or neatly handwritten and stapled together. Be prepared to turn it in on the second day of class.

Book Choices:

1. *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Houston [Amazon Link](#)

Jeanne Wakatsuki describes her experience as a seven-year-old who, with her entire family, was sent to Manzanar internment camp in 1942.

2. *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford [Amazon Link](#)

This novel explores the friendship between a Chinese American boy and Japanese American girl during the Japanese internment camp crisis.

3. *I Am an American* by Jerry Stanley [Amazon Link](#)

Author Jerry Stanley describes the experiences of one high school student, Shir Nomura, who was sent with his family to live in a Japanese internment camp. Beautifully documented with photographs throughout.

4. *The Journal of Ben Uchida* by Barry Denenberg [Amazon Link](#)

Barry Denenberg creates a journal from the perspective of Ben Uchida, a twelve-year-old prisoner at Mirror Lake Internment Camp.

5. *Dear Miss Breed: True Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration During World War II and a Librarian Who Made a Difference* by Joanne Oppenheim [Amazon Link](#)

“A chronicle of the incredible correspondence between California librarian Clara Breed and young Japanese American internees during World War II.” --Amazon Review

Overview of Summer Reading Assignment

Task 1: Complete the short research assignment below to give you a better understanding of Japanese internment camps before reading the book.

Task 2: Read your choice of book from the list above. This includes purchasing a copy of the book so that you can use it for the summer assignment as well as the first few weeks of school. It's a good idea to get small post-it-notes to mark important quotes and facts that you will want to find easily when you are completing the research project. Also, since the book will belong to you, **annotate** or **highlight crucial parts** and write your own notes in the margins. This will make it easier to remember what you read.

Task 3: Write **three** personal response journal entries, following the template at the end of this assignment and supported with listed below and quotations from the book.

Continued on next page...

Name: _____

TASK 1: Research Assignment

BACKGROUND of Japanese Internment Camps

by Nicole Marsala

In 1886, after the arrival of Commodore Perry, the Japanese government lifted its ban on emigration and allowed its citizens to move to other countries. In the years after that, however, the United States made it more difficult for Japanese to immigrate to America. In 1911, the United States Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization declared that only people descended from whites and African Americans could become citizens.

By 1913, Japanese Americans were not allowed to own land in California. After Pearl Harbor was bombed and the United States entered World War II, the FBI declared all Japanese Americans, German Americans, and Italian Americans to be "dangerous enemy aliens." The government arrested and detained people on a daily basis. By February 1942, President Roosevelt released Executive Order 9066, which allowed the government to legally detain American citizens of Japanese, Italian, and German origin.

Watch the short PBS video about Manzanar to gain a better understanding of the events described in the book you have chosen.

Study Questions: PBS Video on Manzanar Internment Camp

Link:

https://youtu.be/XgmY2P-xT_Y

Please watch the first ten minutes of the video and answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. What attack led to the creation of Japanese internment camps?
2. How did the Japanese families dress for their evacuation to the camps?
3. Who built the barracks (rough houses) that the internees lived in?

4. Briefly describe the natural surroundings outside the camp:

5. Why did the camp stay open until November 1945, even though the war had ended in August? (Park ranger explains around the 5-minute mark.)

6. Why was life in the camp preferable to life in the outside world after the war ended?

7. What is left of Manzanar? Why?

8. What did the U.S. Congress issue in 1988? How much money were living internees paid in reparations?

TASK 3: Personal Response Journals

A typical journal entry is at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page typed (double spaced, 12pt font) or one page handwritten. You may write in first person. Grammar and spelling count.

Instructions

Choose **THREE** of the most powerful chapters or scenes in your book. Be sure to pick one from the beginning, one from the middle, and one from the end. Follow template below to complete your entry.

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Personal Response Journal

Your Name:

Book/Author:

Scene #1 (chapter or page numbers):

1. Why did you find this scene/chapter so powerful? Support your response with at least TWO QUOTATIONS from the book.

2. Connect something in that scene/chapter to an experience you've had or a similar experience in a book, movie, or news event. What do they have in common? How are they different?

Scene #2 (chapter or page numbers):

1. Why did you find this scene/chapter so powerful? Support your response with at least TWO QUOTATIONS from the book.

2. Connect something in that scene/chapter to an experience you've had or a similar experience in a book, movie, or news event. What do they have in common? How are they different?

Scene #3 (chapter or page numbers):

1. Why did you find this scene/chapter so powerful? Support your response with at least TWO QUOTATIONS from the book.

2. Connect something in that scene/chapter to an experience you've had or a similar experience in a book, movie, or news event. What do they have in common? How are they different?