

# BOOK LIST

## ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten through Sixth Grade

**Hamanaka, Sheila**

***The Journey, Japanese Americans, Racism and Renewal***

New York: Orchard Books, 1990.

Brief, eloquent testimony to the Japanese American experience done in art and narrative. 40 pp.

**Hiroto, Edwin, ed.**

***Through Innocent Eyes***

Los Angeles: Keiro Services, 1990.

Writings and art by school children in wartime camp at Poston, Arizona. (Cassette tape available. See Audio Visuals.)

**Hongo, Florence M.  
and Burton, Miyo, eds.**

***Japanese American Journey: The Story a People***

San Mateo: AACP, Inc. 1985.

Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc. Staff. (grades 5-8).

***Japanese Americans, The Untold Story***

New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1971.

Japanese American Curriculum Project. Short history of Japanese Americans, includes concentration camp experience and biographies of four outstanding figures. 161 pp.

**Leathers, Noel L.**

***The Japanese In America***

Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Company, 1991. (grade 5+)

**Mochizuki, Ken**

***Baseball Saved Us***

New York: Lee & Low Books

The 1993 Parents' Choice Award. Based on actual events, a touching story of a young boy living in a American concentration camp during World War II. When there was very little to be thankful for, baseball became a savior.

***Heroes***

New York: Lee & Low, 1995

Author of the 1993 Parents' Choice Award Winner for, *Baseball Saved Us*. This second picture book is a wonderful story, set in the 1960's, of overcoming racial stereotypes. Donnie wants to play football after school but his friends want to play war-with Donnie as the bad guy. Donnie has to play the enemy, his friends insist, because as a Japanese-American, he looks like "them". 1995. 32 pp.

**Poynter, Margaret**

***A Time Too Swift***

New York: Macmillan Children Group, 1990. (grade 5)

**Sakai, Kimiko**

***Sachiko Means Happiness***

San Francisco: Childrens Book Press, Raintree

Ages 6 and up. A moving tale about compassion for the elderly.

**Shigekawa, Marlene**

***Blue Jay in the Desert***

1993. 32 pp.

Story about a relationship between a boy and his grandfather, while being interned in Poston, Arizona. The grandfather gives his grandson a very special Blue Jay that he skillfully carved out of wood.

**Uchida, Yoshiko**

***The Best Bad Thing***

New York: Atheneum, 1983. 120 pp. (grades 4-7).

The novel was an ALA Notable Book, appeared on the Best Books of the Year Lists in School Library Journal and People Magazine, and was heralded the Association of Children's Librarians, The Hawaii Herald, Booklist, Kirkus Reviews.

***The Bracelet***

New York: Viking Press, 1958. New York: Philomel Books, 1993 (grades 1-4).

A Japanese American in the second grade, is sent with her family to an internment camp, but the loss of the bracelet her best friend has given her proves that she doesn't need a physical reminder of that friendship.

***The Happiest Ending***

New York: Atheneum, 1985. 111 pp.

When twelve-year old Rinko learns that the daughter of her good friend, Auntie Hata, is coming from Japan to marry a total stranger twice her age, she is determined to rescue Teru from such a terrible fate. Young readers, who first met Rinko in *A Jar of Dreams* and *The Best Bad Thing*, will be delighted to follow her latest adventure.

***The Invisible Thread, A Memoir by Yoshiko Uchida***

1991.

Growing up in 1930's California, Yoshiko Uchida and her family withstood humiliation as they tried to be accepted as Americans by people who only saw their "Japanese faces". But Yoshiko Uchida found an "invisible thread that linked her to her Japanese heritage."

***A Jar of Dreams***

New York: Atheneum, 1982. 131 pp. (grades 5-7).

Awarded the California Commonwealth Club Medal, this novel has been hailed by Ace International, The Horn Book, Kirkus Review, and Booklist. This is a strong Depression Era story of a 11 year old Rinko, who learns that she is a special and a worthy person.

***Journey Home***

New York: Atheneum, 1978.

Sequel to *Journey to Topaz*. Depicts the hardships and joy Yuki and her family experience upon their return to California from a concentration camp. Warm, dignified and optimistic story. 131 pp.

***Journey to Topaz***

New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971, 1985.

Story of an 11-year-old and her family uprooted from their California home and sent to Topaz, a desert wartime camp. Sensitive and thought-provoking. 149 pp.

**Uchida, Yoshiko**

***Samurai of Gold Hill***

1985. 119 pp.

The vivid story of young Koichi and the Wakamatsu Colony who came from Japan to start an ill-fated tea and silk colony in post-gold California. The Booklist thought it to be a “moving narrative of courage and patience in the face of adversity.”

**Yashima, Taro**

***Umbrella***

New York: Viking Press, 1958 (pre-school through grade 1).