## Imprisonment of Japanese Americans in World War II

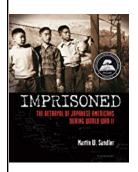
**Summary:** This text set follows the journeys and stories of many Japanese Americans in the United States. Follow along to learn more about their stories, experiences, and journeys depicted in nonfiction, fiction, novels, picturebooks, etc.

## Nonfiction



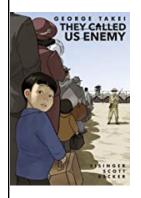
Moss, Marissa. (2016). *Barbed Wire Baseball*. Illus. Yuko Shimizu. Abrams.

Picturebook biography of Japanese American baseball player Kenichi Zenimura who was imprisoned in Arizona during WWII and his goal of building a baseball field.



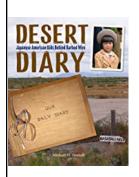
Sandler, Martin. (2020). *Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II*. Bloomsbury.

Comprehensive overview of the Japanese American experiences during WWII, including prejudice before and after imprisonment. Includes primary sources.



Takei, George. (2019). *They Called Us Enemy*. Illus. Harmony Becker. Top Shelf. YA

Graphic novel memoir of the actor's childhood within prison camps in WWII and the impact of that experience on his life.



Tunnell, Michael. (2020). Desert Diary: Japanese American Kids Behind Barbed Wire. Charlesbridge.

Imprisoned third graders created an illustrated classroom diary to document their lives. Combines diary pages, photographs, and narrative nonfiction.

## Fiction



Ahmed, Samira. (2019). Internment. Little Brown. YA

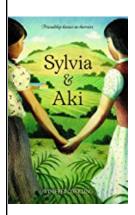
A futuristic U.S. in which Muslim-Americans are imprisoned in camps, similar to the experiences of Japanese Americans, and a teen leads resistance against complicit silence.



Chee. Traci. (2020). We Are Not Free. Houghton Mifflin. YA

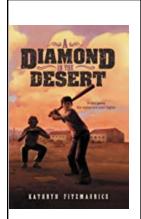
Interconnected stories of 14 teens reflect the disintegration of family life as their lives are torn apart in a prison camp.

Narratives, verse, and letters in 14 viewpoints.



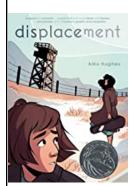
Conkling, Winifred. (2011). Sylvia & Aki. Dell

When Aki and her family are imprisoned in Arizona, Sylvia's family rent their farm but Sylvia is denied entry into the local school, leading to a landmark desegregation suit.



Fitzmaurice, Kathryn. (2012). A Diamond in the Desert. Penguin.

13-year-old Tetsu and his family are imprisoned on the Gila River reservation in Arizona, where baseball becomes his outlet, until his young sister falls ill.



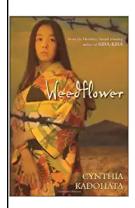
Hughes, Kiku, (2020). Displacement. First Second. YA

Graphic novel in which a teen travels back in time to the camp where her grandmother was imprisoned during WWII. Family history, cultural dislocation, and biracial identity.



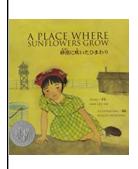
Kadohata, Cynthia. (2019). A Place to Belong. Atheneum.

12-year-old Hanako and her family, reeling from their imprisonment during WWII, give up their American citizenship to move to Hiroshima, longing to find a place they belong.



Kadohata, Cynthia. (2006). Weedflower. Atheneum.

Sumiko and her family are forced to leave their flower farm and imprisoned in Arizona on an Indian reservation, where she works to battle boredom by making the desert bloom.



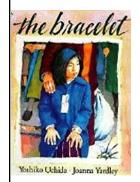
Lee-Tao. Amy. (2006). *A Place Where Sunflowers Grow*. Illus. Felicia Hoshino. Lee & Low.

Bilingual, English/Japanese picturebook. Art classes, friendship, and sunflowers create a sense of purpose and hope for a young girl while imprisoned during WWII. Family story.



Mochizuki, Ken. (1993). *Baseball Saved Us*. Illus. Don Lee. Lee and Low.

Picturebook about a Japanese American boy who faces prejudice during and after WWII and uses baseball as a means of resisting discrimination.



Uchida, Yoshiko. (1993). *The Bracelet*. Illus. Joanna Yardley. Philomel.

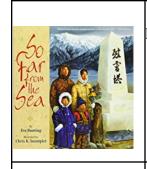
Picturebook. When Emi is forced into a prison camp, she loses the bracelet given by a friend, but realizes that no one can take away her memories. Based on author's life.



Yamasaki, Katie. (2013). Fish for Jimmy. Holiday House.

Picturebook based on a family story. Taro cuts through a fence to try and save his younger brother's life when he stops eating during their imprisonment. Surrealist art.

Other books on Japanese-American experiences in WWII include:



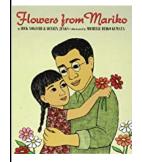
Bunting, Eve. (1998). *So Far from the Sea*. Illus. Chris Soentpiet. Sandpiper. RF picturebook,



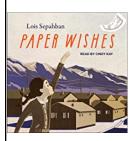
Grady, Cynthia. (2018). Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind. Illus. Amiko Hirao. Charlesbridge. Nonfiction.



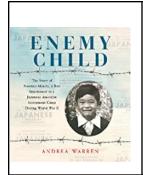
Hesse, Karen. (2003). Aleutian Sparrow. Simon & Schuster. HF novel.



Noguchi, Rick. (2016). *Flowers from Mariko*. Lee & Low. HF picturebook.



Sepahban, Lois. (2017). Paper Wishes. Farrar. HF novel



Warren, Andrea (2019). *Enemy Child: The Story of Norman Mineta*. Holiday House. Bio

## National Archives:

https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/japanese-relocation