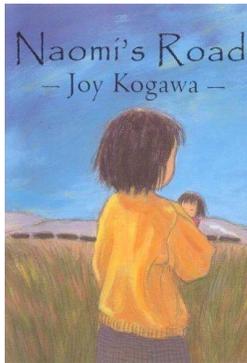


## *Naomi's Road* by Joy Kogawa



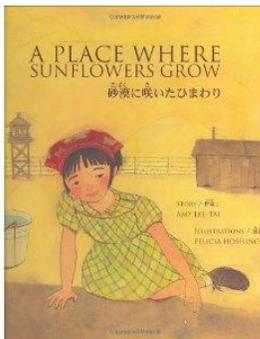
**ISBN:** 978-1-55005-115-5 (1986)

**Grade Levels:** 4 to 7

### **Synopsis:**

This is a story of a young girl during the Japanese-Canadian internment. It is a novel that bears malice for the injustices of the war, but relates instead a tale of unquenchable human spirit, undaunted by prejudice and unable to let go of hope.

## *A Place Where Sunflowers Grow* by Amy Lee-Tai



**ISBN-10:** 0-89239-215-0 (2006)

**Grade Level:** Elementary

### **Synopsis:**

Through the eyes of a child, this book offers beautiful, haunting depictions of life in a Japanese internment camp during World War 2.

### **Pre-reading activities:**

#### a) Anticipation questions

- How would you feel if you were given days to leave your home and move away to a strange place?

#### b) Illustration Activity

- The girl in this novel is being asked to move from her home and go to an area where they are putting all Japanese-Canadian families. Draw a picture of what you imagine this place to look like.

### **Post-reading activities:**

#### a) Understanding the story

- Why did the government want Japanese-Canadian families to move away from their homes?
- How would you feel if you were separated from your immediate family or other relatives?
- Describe how Naomi feels about her new surroundings.
- Why was Mitzi mean to Naomi?
- What do you think their life will be like once they move back home?

b) Transforming your thinking

- What was the government's rationale for the internment of Japanese-Canadian families?
- Should it be the role of a government to "protect" their citizens in this manner? The government gave some monetary compensation to families in the 1980s. Do you feel that this was fair? Why or why not? Give recent examples of the Canadian government's protections towards its citizens.

c) Deepening your thinking

- How do you feel about our government's anti-terrorist laws? Do you feel that they are too strong or not strong enough? Are they racist?
- What can be done to change laws that are unfair? Who can you contact? Who can be your allies?

PSID/Social Justice program/Action groups/Antiracism/Japanese internment in Canada (elementary)  
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