

Name _____

Weedflower by Cynthia Kadohata

Reading Guide

Due to your reading teacher on Aug. 31, 2010

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Weedflower is an example of historical fiction writing. That means that although the story itself is made-up, the historical events surrounding the story are true. In the case of Weedflower, some of the true events are that many Japanese families owned flower fields in California; the bombing of Pearl Harbor during World War II by the Japanese Air force; many Japanese-Americans were sent to live in internment camps while their homes and businesses were sold away for pennies. Sumiko and her family are made-up people but their stories are true in that thousands of Japanese-Americans experienced what they did during this time in history.

A. Setting- There are three major settings in Weedflower. Find and write a sentence from the story to describe each one. Be sure to include the page number of where you found your description.

1. Sumiko's home and flower fields

2. The racetrack

3. The camp at Poston

B. Characterization –

1. Bull and Ichiro are both Sumiko's cousins. How are they alike and how are they different. Give two examples of each.

Alike

Different

1.

1.

2.

2.

2. Even though Sumiko's aunt and uncle do not tell her "I love you" write two different ways they show her they care for her.

1.

2.

C. Plot/Characterization — Find a quote that describes Sumiko's feelings after each one of the following events. Be sure to include the page number. There is more than one correct answer.

1. She gets uninvited to Marsha's party. —

2. The Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor-

3. Sumiko and her family get relocated to the racetrack.-

4. Sumiko meets Frank for the first time.-

5. Sumiko decides to move with her family to Chicago after all.-

D. Personal Connection

1. Sumiko is always making lists. Complete the following list about yourself.

Things I want to remember when I start middle school:

1.

2

3.

4.

2. Sumiko's "home" at Poston is very small. Draw a sketch of it based on the description from pg. 109.

3. Draw a sketch of your home. Put a star next to space that is just yours (your room, desk, bed, etc.)

4. What did you learn about history that you did not know before reading this book?

5. Draw stars to rank your enjoyment of this book with 1 star being the lowest and 10 stars being the highest.