

Interdisciplinary Ideas

SOCIAL STUDIES

1. Discuss how war affects the lives and hopes of people.
2. Research another country. Imagine you are living in that country. List what might make you excited in your new homeland. Make a list of what might make you homesick. Share your impressions with you classmates.

MATH

1. It took 3 weeks for Grandfather to reach America. How long would it take today by airplane? Research
2. Research the time zones between the U.S. and Japan.

ART

1. Oragami Project
2. Draw 2 people. Dress one in traditional Japanese clothes and one in American Clothes.

SCIENCE

1. Investigate songbirds. Where do they live? What is unusual about them? How many different kinds are there? What is a silveryeye? What is a warbler? Try to find recordings of songbirds.
2. Research the Sierra Mountains. Research a mountain chain in Japan. Compare and contrast the two.

Grandfather's Journey

Allen Say
1993
Boston: Houghton Mifflin company

HOPE
Japanese American

CONCEPTS

Hope

SUMMARY

A Japanese American man tells the story of his grandfather's journey from Japan to the United States. He makes the same journey himself and reflects on his and his grandfather's feelings about Japan and the United States

OBJECTIVE

The student will be able to define and discuss hope as it relates to this story.

After the Story

Grandfather's Journey

DISCUSSION

1. It took hope and courage for Grandfather to leave his homeland and venture into a new world and new life. What kind of life do you think Grandfather was searching for in America? What are some reasons people leave their country to come to America?
2. Before settling in California, Grandfather returned to Japan to marry and then brought his bride back with him. What hopes did he bring back with him this time?
3. Why didn't Grandfather and his family stay in America? (Talk about the reasons for being homesick). How did his dreams and hopes change?
4. If you moved, what would you miss most? What special memories would make you want to go back? (Help children identify places they have visited and would like to return to, such as a vacation place, grandparents' home, museum.)
5. Wishing or hoping alone doesn't make things happen. Discuss the need for action to make hopes become real. How did Grandfather make his hopes come true? (Help children understand that Grandfather had to return to Japan to still the longing in his heart.)
6. Why did the grandson do the same thing his grandfather did, move to America? Do you think the grandson will also return to Japan? (Talk about the importance of keeping your hopes and dreams in front of you.)

ACTIVITIES

1. Locate Japan on the world map and place a story pin. Locate the United States, California, the Sierra Mountains, and the Pacific Ocean. Show the route Grandfather would have taken. Find pictures of steamships, trains, and cities in the late 1800's. Discuss what it would have been like to take a voyage from Japan to America on a steamship.
2. In groups of three or four, list what Grandfather liked in the United States and what Grandfather liked in Japan. Report back to class why it is possible to love two countries.
3. Hope Wheel: A two-dimensional ship's steering wheel may be cut from construction paper for a bulletin board. Have each student write a hope for the environment, community, or world. Tape each hope to the wheel.

EXTENSION

1. Make a copy of your hope from the ship's steering wheel, take your hope home, share it with your family. Write their hopes in your journal.
2. Discuss with your family why it is important to have hopes and dreams.
3. Try to find an elderly person in your family or neighborhood and ask what his/her hopes are. Compare with yours.

WRAP-UP

1. In your journal write a poem about hope.
Line 1: What is it? (You could begin: "Hope is the first flower of spring.")
Line 2: Where is it?
Line 3: What is it doing?
Line 4: How is it feeling?
You could extend your poem:
Line 5: What does it bring?
2. Write hopes from your classroom ship's steering wheel in your journal. Leave space for your family's hope. (See Extension Activity section.)
3. Make a collage of hopes, using pictures from magazines and labeling each hope with a word or phrase. In a small group, share your collage and talk about each other's. Make a display of the collages in your school or classroom.
4. Imagine that you are Grandfather and coming to America for the first time. Be Grandfather and write about your hopes.

VOCABULARY

journey	songbird
steamboat	warblers
homeland	silvereyes
homesick	European