

Summer Reading - American Government  
Mr. Edwards

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Graders,

Please read the following book:

Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki. Houston, James D. *Farewell To Manzanar: A True Story Of Japanese American Experience During And After The World War II Internment*. New York: Ember, 2012. Print.

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. You must answer in complete sentences.

Chapter One

1. Name five common household items that would lead FBI authorities to be suspicious when they ransacked the homes of the fishermen. Do you have any of these items in your own household? Explain what would lead the FBI officers to look at these items suspiciously.
2. What does Papa's reaction to his arrest show us about his personality?
3. How long will it be before Jeanne sees her father again? Everyone in the family except for Jeanne cries when Papa is taken. Why doesn't Jeanne cry, too?

Chapter Two

4. Explain what happens with Mama's china dishes. What does this incident show us about Mama? Symbolically, what might the dishes represent?
5. Explain what "Shikata ga nai" means. Do you think this Issei philosophy will help people or hurt them as they face the internment camps?
6. What is the problem with the food? Symbolically, what's interesting about this passage?

Chapter Three

7. With Papa gone, who becomes the leader in the family? Does this person do a good job of getting the family settled? What makes you think this?

### Chapter Four

8. As the family settles into the new life in Manzanar, there are plenty of challenges. For each of the four items below, list one specific problem the Wakatsuki family faces and how the problem is solved. So, yes, I want two sentences for each of the following:

- Housing
- Clothing
- Latrines
- Privacy

### Chapter Five

9. Mama begins working as a dietician, helping the cooks develop menus for residents with special dietary needs/restrictions. For this work, she earns \$19 a month. Given that \$1 in 1941 would be worth about \$16 today, what's the monthly amount of Mama's pay in today's dollars? Does this seem like a fair wage? Explain your thinking.

10. What is compelling about the tallest woman in the camp, the mother of one of Jeanne's playmates? What does this show you about the desperation these families faced?

### Chapter Six

11. How did Papa and Mama meet? Why didn't her family approve of him? Were her parents right to disapprove of him?

12. When Papa arrived in Honolulu at age 17, what humiliation did he face?

### Chapter Seven

13. What was the charge against Papa that led to his arrest? He says he is innocent. Do you believe him? Why?

14. Papa hesitates when the interviewer asks about his feelings of loyalty toward Japan or its emperor. Why might Papa still feel some loyalty to his homeland?

Chapter Eight

15. Given the rumors around the camp, what might be the real reason that Papa drinks so much?
16. How can Kiyō's apology to Papa be seen as heroic?

Chapter Nine

17. Sugar disappears quickly from the internment camp kitchens. Give some symbolic meaning to this fact.
18. As Jeanne peeks out the window, what reminds her that she is, in fact, living in a prison?

Chapter 10

19. Briefly explain the Reservoir Shack incident.

Chapter 11

20. What was the purpose of the Loyalty Oath? Why did the government require the oath?
21. Give one of Woody's reasons for his willingness to join the military.

Chapter 12

22. In Spanish, what does "manzanar" mean? How is this an empty promise for the internment camp residents?
23. How do Papa and Mama spend time while in the camp?

Chapter 13

24. In her second year at the internment camp, school opens. Why is this a good thing for Jeanne?
25. What did Jeanne find so appealing about baton twirling?

Chapter 14

26. What is the real cause of Papa's occasional angry outbursts?
27. What is the double-heartbreak that Eleanor, Jeanne's older sister, must face?

### Chapter 15

28. Why are the Issei more reluctant to leave Manzanar than the Nisei?

29. In what way is Woody very similar to his father?

### Chapter 16

30. What group of Californians might have economic motive to promote racist hatred against Japanese-Americans?

31. Most of the Wakatsuki family moves to New Jersey, but Papa decides to return to the west coast with his wife and remaining children. Why? What would you have done?

### Chapter 17

32. What California law passed in 1943? How did this law affect Papa?

33. What happened on August 6, 1945? How did Papa react to the event? Why?

### Chapter 18

34. What does Woody realize about himself and his father by visiting Hiroshima?

### Chapter 19

35. How long did the Wakatsuki family live in Manzanar?

36. Jeanne and her family feared that they would be the victims of violence when they returned to California. What happened to them when they arrived?

### Chapter 20

37. How did Jeanne respond to the prejudice she faced? As an adult looking back at that time, is Jeanne proud of her response?

38. What happened to Papa once Woody returned from Japan?

Chapter 21

39. What happened that caused Papa to stop drinking alcohol?
40. Should Jeanne have protested when she found out that the administration was trying to fix the voting? Why or why not?
41. How does Papa react to the news that Jeanne won the contest?
42. For Papa, what would be the worst outcome for his daughter? Look at Jeanne's full name on the cover of the book. What do you think happened in her adult life?

Chapter 22

43. What was the purpose of revisiting Manzanar?
44. Most of the campsite is gone and "the place looks devastated by a bombing raid." What's the allusion Jeanne makes here?