

THE READING ZONE

STUDENT BOOK REVIEW

Farewell to Manzanar

By Jeanne Wakatsuki and James D. Houston
Published by Bantam Publishing

A semi-autobiographical book, *Farewell to Manzanar*, by Jeanne Wakatsuki and James D. Houston, outlines life in one of the most famous Japanese internment camps of its time, Manzanar.

The book begins with Wakatsuki's memory of Pearl Harbor. She recalls the events that were the only normal life she had, the life before Manzanar. Then she and her family are shipped off to Manzanar, and her life story really begins.

Even though this book has an interesting theme and idea, the book is not very good. It feels like the author is telling her story to you in a monotone, which makes the book boring and impersonal. This book is more like a timeline of events at Manzanar than of the lives and adventures of family life in Manzanar. The events and happenings are exciting, but the presentation is lacking. The absence of dialogue and emotion are also destructive to this story; however, the plot is pretty good. The storyline and ideas are fresh, and have not been recycled through many authors like other World War II ideas have been. With the right author, this book would have been exciting and intriguing.



Reviewed by ...



Laura Fraser
Learwood
Middle School

Teacher:

Kim Johnson

Grade: 8

What type of books do you prefer?:
Action/comedy.

What will you read next?:
Still Kicking
by Katie Hnida.

Did you learn anything from this book?:
Our country isn't totally innocent.

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