

October 2019

From Executive Director Tom Ikeda

Dear friends,

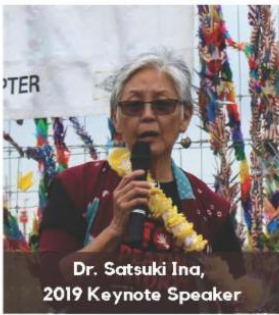
I've always believed in the importance of preserving history and the power of personal stories. But doing this work in the middle of a history-in-the-making moment has taught me that quietly documenting these stories is no longer enough. We must activate that history to build the courage and compassion needed for a more just world.

That's why I'm excited to gather in community at the [2019 Densho Dinner](#) in just a few weeks, and share how we're activating the Japanese American past to fight for a better future.

I'm especially excited to hear from two strong voices who will be featured at this event: Dr. Satsuki Ina, co-chair of [Tsuru For Solidarity](#) and a leader in the movement to end the detention of immigrant children and families; and poet, educator, and longtime feminist and human rights activist Mitsuye May Yamada. I never cease to be inspired by the ways these amazing women draw from their own WWII incarceration experience to fight for the rights of others — and I hope you will be too.

The stories of Japanese American WWII incarceration are needed today more than ever. Please join me at the Densho Dinner on Saturday, November 2 to activate our history!

In appreciation and solidarity,
Tom



Please join us at the Densho Dinner on Saturday, November 2! We'll gather, share, and celebrate—all while supporting efforts to activate our history.

Learn more about the event at www.densho.org/denshodinner.
Contact jen.fukutaki@densho.org or danielle.higa@densho.org with questions.

[Buy Tickets](#)

Densho Collaboration with TedEd: The Aki Kurose Story

Ugly history: Japanese American incarceration camps - Densho

145,633 Views

470 Questions Answered

TEDEd Animation

Let's Begin...

On December 7, 1941, 16 year-old Aki Kurose shared in the horror of millions of Americans when Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor. Unbeknownst to her, this shared experience would soon leave her family and over 120,000 Japanese Americans alienated from their country, both socially and physically. Densho explores the racism and paranoia that led to the unjust internment of Japanese Americans.

Share:    

Watch

Think

Dig Deeper

Discuss

Customize This Lesson

30

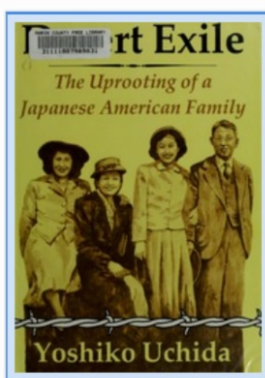
Create and share a new lesson based on this one.

We're proud to share the product of a Densho-TedEd collaboration that's been nearly a year in the making! Densho staff helped research and write this video that tells the story of WWII incarceration through the life of Seattle legend Aki Kurose. To help teachers bring these essential lessons into the classroom, we crafted curriculum and additional activities.

In the first week since its publication, the video has reached over 100,000 educators and has the potential to reach millions of students. Please help spread the story by sharing it with all the teachers you know!

>> [Watch the video and view the lesson.](#)

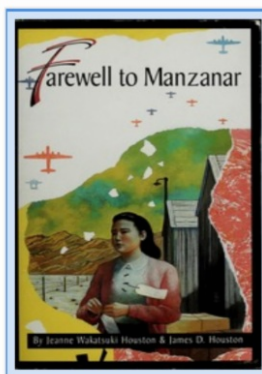
Announcing the Digital Library of Japanese American Incarceration



Borrow

Desert exile : the uprooting of a Japanese
by Uchida, Yoshiko

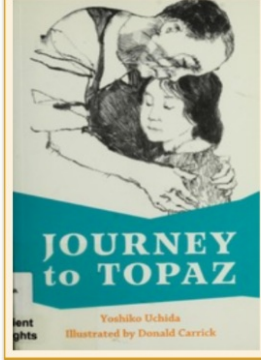
230 2 0



Borrow

Farewell to Manzanar : a true story of Japanese
by Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki; Houston, James D

227 1 0



Join Waitlist

Journey to Topaz
by Yoshiko Uchida

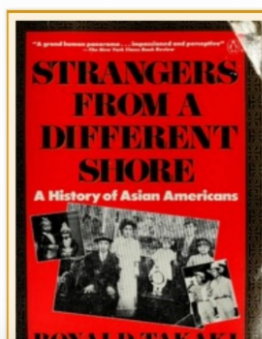
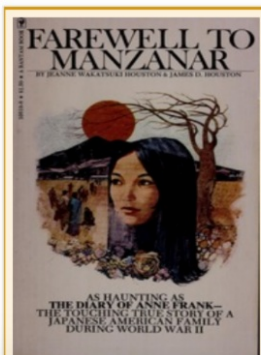
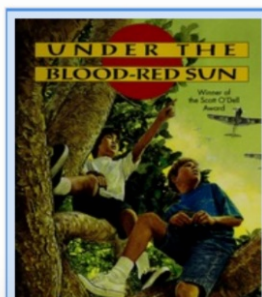
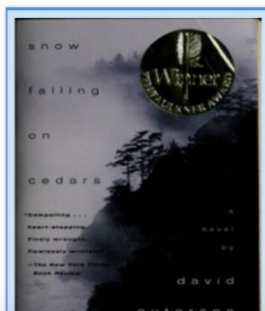
219 0 0



Borrow

Weedflower
by Kadohata, Cynthia

203 1 0



Thanks to a partnership between Densho and the Internet Archive, the [Digital Library of Japanese American Incarceration](#) is now available online! Anyone with an [Internet Archive account](#) can borrow these books for free.

As Wendy Hanamura writes on the Internet Archive blog, "Our next step is to weave these 500 books into the place where people go first for online information: Wikipedia. Working with scholars and Wikipedia editors, we are turning the footnotes into clickable links that take you to the exact page of the reference. Along the way, we are correcting factual errors, providing context, and making sure that at the end of this saeculum, the voices of those who lived through the incarceration will still be a source of truth."

>> [Read more.](#)

Ten Things that Made Poston Concentration Camp Unique



The Colorado River “Relocation Center”—more commonly referred to as [Poston](#)—was located in the Arizona desert a few miles from the California border, on the Colorado River Indian Reservation. The largest and most populous of the [War Relocation Authority](#) (WRA) administered concentration camps (with the exception of [post-segregation Tule Lake](#)) with a peak population of nearly 18,000, Poston was unique among WRA camps in a number of ways.

>> [Read more.](#)

>> Visit our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages to see photos from the 2019 Poston Pilgrimage.

Oral History Spotlight: Chizuko Omori



Chizuko Omori grew up in Oceanside, California and was incarcerated with her family at Poston during WWII. In this clip she recalls her “miserable” first summer in Poston, and adjusting to the difficult conditions of camp life.

>> [Watch the clip.](#)

Thank you to all who joined our Bay Area events!



We loved connecting with our Bay Area friends, new and old, at a series of events in late September. Thank you to all who took the time to come out and meet with us! We'll resume our road show in 2020, with stops in Sacramento, Las Vegas, and more!

>> If you're interested in hosting us in your community, please reach out to jen.fukutaki@densho.org or danielle.higa@densho.org.

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