

Socratic Seminar Questions

1. Who was your favorite character in the book and why? (Have all students go around the room and answer this question).
2. President Franklin Roosevelt once said, "We must scrupulously guard the civil rights and civil liberties of all our citizens, whatever their background." According to what you read, why do you think he then took civil rights and liberties from the Japanese Americans?
3. "When your mother and your father are having a fight, do you want them to kill each other? Or do you just want them to stop fighting?" How does this quote from *Farewell to Manzanar* exemplify the position that the Issei generation were put in?
4. What is the American Dream? How does this book demonstrate the American Dream? Provide examples of either Jeanne, George Ko (dad), Rigu Sakai (mom).
5. Based on what you read, did the internment camp have a greater effect on the younger generation or the older generation?
6. Many of the people interned were American citizens. Which of their Constitutional rights were denied?
7. Jeanne's brother Woody wanted to prove his allegiance to America. Would you ever sign an allegiance to a country, like the one in the book? (Go around the room and answer the question).
8. Would you join the military to show your allegiance to a country?
9. The 442nd regiment was made entirely of Japanese Americans and was the most highly decorated unit in the war. Why do you think they fought so hard for this country?
10. Why did Jeanne return to the camp all those years later?