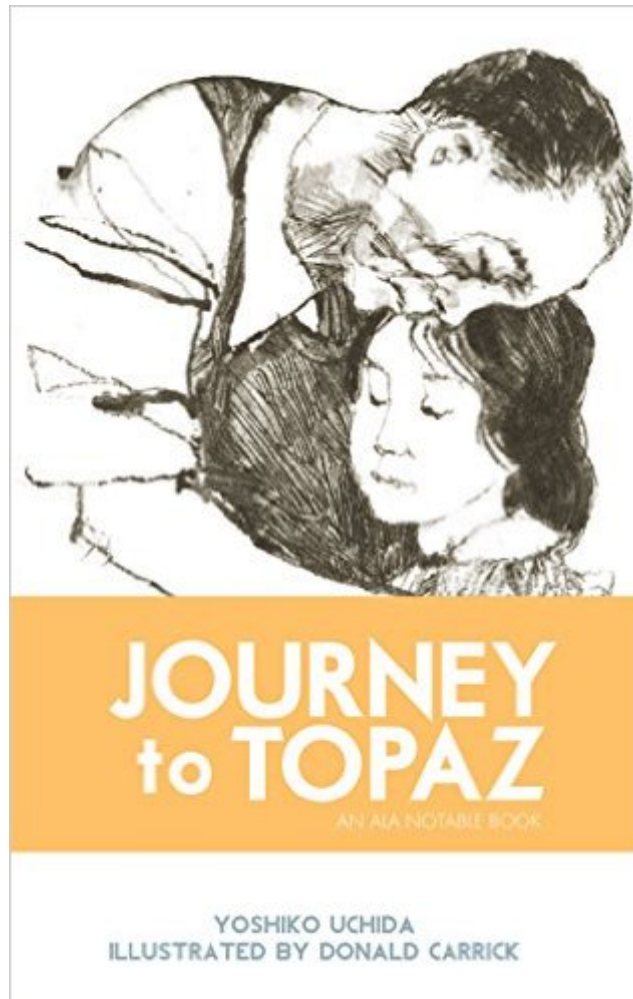


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# Journey To Topaz: A Story Of The Japanese-American Evacuation



## Synopsis

Based on Yoshiko Uchida's personal experiences, this is the moving story of one girl's struggle to remain brave during the Japanese internment of World War II. In a bleak and dusty prison camp, eleven-year-old Yuki and her family experience both true friendship and heart-wrenching tragedy. *Journey to Topaz* explores the consequences of prejudice and the capacities of the human spirit. First published in 1971, this book is now a much loved and widely read classic.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 970 (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #91,269 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in Â Books > Children's Books >

Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #89 in Â Books >

Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #116 in Â Books >

Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This was interesting to me since my mother was about Yuki's age when she went to "camp". My mother doesn't talk much about that time, maybe because some things you just want to forget. It helped me understand some of the fear and prejudice towards Japanese Americans during the war. I have mixed feelings about the internment. It was horrible how so many people lost their livelihoods, but on the other hand, in camp, they were sheltered from the hatred and hostility they may have experienced at home. This was wartime, so everyone was feeling some kind of unhappiness. I give this book 4 stars and 5 stars to Uchida's "Journey Home", the story which follows Yuki's family out of camp.

Yuki is a Japanese-American girl, who lives a normal life in Berkeley, California. Suddenly, a war transforms her life into a long trip of misery and pain. Her father is torn away from the family, and her friends are separated. In her school, kids sneer at her and call Yuki a "Jap". The bombing of Pearl Harbor causes Yuki to move from one place to another... cramped concentration camps and horsestall homes. Friendships bud and families reunite, giving Yuki hope of having a home with her family once again.

I homeschool my 12 y.o. son, and we read this book for a historical fiction book group. It is a beautifully written story of the tragic internment of Japanese Americans during WWII. It brings to life both the physical realities and the emotional burdens that were imposed by tearing people from their homes and sending them to dismal war camps. I highly recommend this book as an accompaniment to non-fiction reading about the internments, because it provides such a vivid picture of this sad chapter in American history.

I chose *Journey to Topaz* as my book to do a presentation on in my Reading in the Middle Grades class because it is well written and on a level that can be understood by most students. This account, as told by Yuki, is a sad reminder of days past when people were judged by their heritage and not their newfound loyalty. This book is an eye opener for those who lived during this era and those who can only read about this era. My compliments to Ms. Uchida on a job well done. I look forward to reading her other books.

*Journey to Topaz* is about Yuki, a young girl, forced to leave the only home she's ever known (Berkeley) to go to live in an internment camp during World War Two. The camps are worse than she could ever imagine, and she has to give up so many things. *Journey to Topaz* is based on real experiences and is a heartbreaking look into America's past.

*Journey to Topaz* was a great book. I think that this book was a very gripping and touching story. It taught me a lot of lessons, i.e. don't always complain that I don't have everything that I want because there are people in the world that aren't as fortunate as me. I've also learned that people should be treated equally, even if we don't have the same skin colour or the same height, we are still the same on the inside. Now I know how hard it is to let someone, that you love, go. I can imagine how Yuki felt when her dad left her and when she had to let go of Pepper. I also like the way the author added in Japanese words to make the book more interesting. This book showed that not only the

Jews were effected in World War II, but the Japanese were just as scared and threatened as the Jews. I would recommend this book to everyone that thinks that Japanese people are spoliot and get whatever they want. I would also recommend this book to people that think their parents aren't getting them everything they want. All I want to say is that this was an excellent book and it taught many teachings.

Journey to Topaz is a great book. I love the advanced words in it and the way that the author throws in Japanese words into it. My reading teacher said that the school didn't have enough books to supply all of us with books, so I had to get a photocopied book. But it was such a great book, I'm going to beg my parents into buying it on .com! I think my teacher should have gone onto .com and bought us books so we could have the pleasure of having a real copy! I think Journey to Topaz is the best book I have ever read, because it teaches you that not only the Jews were affected by World War 2, but the Japaneese were affected as well, just as much as the Jews. It was also a breaking to the constitutional laws. Yoshiko Uchida(the author of the book) says it was uncalled for. I think that this book is great-five stars is definitely underestimating it!

Yuki Sakane is a Japanese-American girl, who lives a normal life in Berkeley, California. In her school, kids make fun of her for being Japanese. They also call her "Jap" which is insulting for Japanese.It is sad that Yuki Uchida was looking forward to a nice Christmas with her family. The bombing of Pearl Harbor had her dad Taken away. They were asked to leave too. But it was not at the same time her father left. They were forced to sell everything.I think that the author of the Book Yoshiko Uchida is trying to tell me to be prepared to experience bad things that you just can't control and that life is no always fair.I like this part of the book. It is the ending when Yuki is saying goodbye:"Goodbye Emi. Goodbye Mrs. Kurihara. Goodbye Mr. Toda. Goodbye... goodbye."Yuki waved and waved as the bus lurched down the dusty road. She kept waving even when she knew her friend could no longer see her and they became small black dots in the sand. She watched the black barracks and the hospital and the watcher towers grow smaller and smaller, until they soon were only a splotch in the desert"I would recommend this book to people who are interested in sad books that involve war. This book does not include a lot of war but it shows what happened to the Japanese after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It has a good beginning and end. I would definitely recommend the book to everyone.

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