

ONE PAGER TEMPLATE

LESSON TITLE: Write to Me

GRADE LEVEL(S): 3rd Grade

LESSON AUTHOR(S): Sandra Lira-Santiago

AUTHOR AFFILIATION (SCHOOL): International Community School

SUBJECT AREAS AND STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

Reading

- ELAGSE3RL6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.
 - *Learning Target: Students will be able to distinguish between the narrator's and their own points of view by identifying key textual evidence (ELAGSE3RL6).*

Writing

- ELAGSE3W1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.
 - *Learning Target: Students will compose an opinion letter reflecting empathy and historical understanding (ELAGSE3W1).*

Math (Extension)

- 3.PAR.3.6: Solve practical, relevant problems involving multiplication and division within 100 using part-whole strategies, visual representations, and/or concrete models.

IB FRAMEWORK CONNECTION (optional):

- Open-minded - we consider and respect new perspectives.
- Communicators - we express ourselves in many different ways.

K-12 ASIAN AMERICAN FRAMEWORK EMPHASIS (optional):

- **Reclamation & Joy:** Creative Expression
 - Although Japanese Americans were relocated to incarceration camps, it allowed for the community to come up with creative ways to continue maintaining relationships between community members.
- **Community & Solidarity:** Resistance & Solidarity
 - Although Japanese Americans were relocated to incarceration camps, it did not stop the sense of community between community members. Writing made it possible to continue friendships.

GLOBAL CONNECTION (optional):

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME OR CLASS SESSIONS REQUIRED: 1 session (70 minutes)

BRIEF SUMMARY OF CONTENT BACKGROUND

This lesson incorporates cultural history and raises awareness about the effects of Executive Order 9066 which resulted in the forced relocation of Japanese Americans in 1942. Executive Order 9066 was enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in response to the attack on Pearl Harbor. During this time, there was a sense of high distrust against the Japanese American communities in the United States. This executive order resulted in Japanese Americans being forcibly moved from their homes, severing connections and bonds.

Among those affected were countless children who had to leave behind their friends, schools, and neighborhoods. Clara Breed, a compassionate American librarian, recognized the injustice and sought to offer comfort. She provided children with postcards and books, encouraging them to write to her from the camps. Clara's correspondence with these children became a lifeline of hope and connection during a dark period in their lives.

This narrative non-fiction book, "Write to Me" by Cynthia Grady, shares the messages sent from Katherina Tasaki to her librarian, Clara Breed.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES/LESSON OUTLINE:

Using illustrations from "Write to Me" by Cynthia Grady, students will read messages from Japanese children to librarian Clara Breed. In this lesson, students will practice determining a character's point of view and distinguish their own point of view. They will determine the points of view of Japanese children and distinguish it from their own.

After, students will share their points of view of the book to each other by writing opinion letters to each other.

Students will also have an extension opportunity to practice their multiplication fluency and determine the secret messages in a coded message to Miss Breed.